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#### TO PLAINTIFF AND ITS ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on September, 2021, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in the above-entitled court, located at 221 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, in Dept. 4B, Defendants, MARTHA THOMPSON, JENNA BULIS, CHELSEA FILER, and BREAKINGCODESILENCE, INC., will move the court to dismiss the action pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(6) because plaintiff's second amended complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, on the grounds that it fails to allege sufficient facts to support a cognizable legal theory as to each and every claim made by Plaintiff against Defendants.

Defendants further move this court to strike the second amended complaint on the grounds that it was improperly filed after Defendants had responded without leave of court pursuant to FRCP 12(f).

This motion is made following the parties having met and conferred on July 26, 2021

The motion will be based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the Declaration of ANDREW STILWELL, JOSH SCARPUZZI, and CHELSEA PAPCIAK filed herewith, the Request for Judicial Notice filled concurrently herewith, as well as the pleadings and papers field herein.

### **CONTRERAS LAW FIRM**

#### Date: August 2, 2021 By:

# /s/ ANDREW R. STILWELL

Dolores Contreras, Esq. Andrew Stilwell, Esq. Attorneys for MARTHA THOMPSON, JENNA BULIS, CHELSEA FILER, and BREAKINGCODESILENCE, INC.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff has turned the docket in this case into a complete procedural quagmire. After Defendant, MARTHA THOMPSON, filed her motion to dismiss, Plaintiff filed a second amended complaint ("SAC") (after two defendants had responded) without a court order in violation of FRCP 12(f) and 15(a). Even though Defendants had been working diligently to try to resolve the motion to dismiss, Plaintiff would still have to file a joint motion to approve any stipulation under Local Rule 15. Defendant, JENNIFER WALKER, filed an objection to the improper SAC. All Defendants have been subsequently trying to meet and confer with Plaintiff's counsel, however have had little success due to a carousel of counsel trying to come up to speed and re-come up to speed delaying any informal resolution. Defendants have relayed to Plaintiff that they had not cured the issues of standing to bring the action and the improper amended complaint. Plaintiff responded with nothing substantive, then filed a response to the motion to dismiss (after filing the SAC) and defaults against all Defendants in bad faith knowing that all parties were in the middle of the meet and confer process.

The quagmire has created confusion. Is the second amended complaint that Defendant filed the motion to dismiss against the active complaint? Is the SAC the active complaint? Default cannot be entered against an improper SAC that was filed without leave of court, so do Defendants need to do a motion to set aside? Because Defendants have been left with such a mess to attempt to clean up, they now bring this motion to dismiss and strike to attempt to get clarity in the docket and to re-raise the continuing flaws in the complaints. Because the judicially noticeable evidence controverts Plaintiff's claims, Defendants respectfully ask this Honorable Court that this matter be dismissed without leave to amend.

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#### STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS

### **Background Facts**

In September 2020, a group of mutually interested people decided to start a non-profit organization with the mission to raise awareness of institutional child abuse, change legislation related to this issue and assist survivors of troubled teen programs and boarding schools. Defendants. MARTHA THOMPSON ("THOMPSON"), JENNA BULIS ("BULIS"), and CHELSEA PAPCIAK ("PAPCIAK") were part of the original group. They had all been survivor's themselves and each had their own gifts they brought to the project. All were volunteers, and working towards making the organization viable to support its mission. Prior to 2020 several of these individuals had been very active in the survivor community, including merchandizing, writing blogs, building websites, participating in legislative efforts, hosting support groups on social media to connect with others in the survivor community. Two people who were leaders in this community were BULIS and PAPCIAK.

Another survivor named JOSHUA SCARPUZZI ("Josh") had also been active in the survivor community through a different organization known as TTI, and had been writing a collection of poetry that was entitled "The Thoughts of a Caged Bird." Josh's leadership led to speaking engagements between 2010 and 2018. However, Josh never used to term or trademark BREAKING CODE SILENCE or BCS during that time. [Decl. Scarpuzzi, p. 2].

In 2014, PAPCIAK created the name BREAKING CODE SILENCE, and had been using that name in her role within the survivor community both in commerce through merchandizing and in her contributions to advocacy in the cause against institutional abuse and in commerce through merchandizing. [Decl. Papciak, p. 3]. THOMPSON was the de facto CFO, and the organization was to be named BREAKING CODE SILENCE.

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In September 2020, six of the partners submitted a trademark application for BRAKINGCODESILENCE and BREAKING CODE SILENCE to the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO"). The six partners will be referred to as the "Joint Owners." PACIAK and BULIS were part of the six-member Joint Owners group. [*RJN*, *Ex*. *A*].

In March of 2021, one of the Joint-Owners, KATHERINE McNAMARA ("McNAMARA") individually incorporated a corporation in California named BREAKING CODE SILENCE ("Plaintiff"). [RJN, Ex. B]. McNAMARA did not let all the Joint Owners to be part of the corporation. When the excluded Joint-Owners discovered that McNAMARA had filed for a corporation without them, they voiced their objection, and McNAMARA shut them all out of everything, and declared herself the CEO of BREAKING CODE SILENCE demanding all of the material for the organization to be turned over to her. The material demanded included a privately owned Facebook group that is owned and managed by Defendant, JENNIFER WALKER ("WALKER"), who also was part of the Joint Owners. WALKER also owns the rights to the G-Suite account that hosted the fledgling organization's email accounts. As mentioned earlier, PAPCIAK had been selling BREAKING CODE SILENCE merchandise for several years before the group decided to attempt an organization, and had created websites to sell that merchandise, including originally designed logos that PAPCIAK had made. McNAMARA demanded that as well, despite neither she nor Plaintiff had any right or ownership in any of these pages or accounts.

Then in May 2021, McNAMARA, through Plaintiff, filed an application with the USPTO for the trademarks of BREAKINGCODESILENCE and BREAKING CODE SILENCE. That same month, McNAMARA, through Plaintiff, filed the instant lawsuit claiming trademark infringement, unfair business practices and competition, conversion, false light, and intentional interference with economic

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### **Procedural History**

On May 13, 2021, Plaintiff filed the original complaint, however the caption was flawed. [Dkt. No. 1]. On May 17, 2021, Plaintiff filed the first amended complaint ("FAC") to correct their original error. [Dkt. No. 5]. Defendants, THOMPSON, BULIS, and BREAKINGCODESILENCE, INC. are residents outside of California, hired counsel on June 7, 2021. [Decl. Stilwell, p. 2]. Due to the fact that there was only three days to respond to the FAC, Defendants' counsel attempted to meet and confer with Plaintiff's counsel in order to get an extension of time long enough to satisfy Local Rule 4(A)'s requirement to have a good faith meet and confer prior to filing any motions to dismiss. [Decl. Stilwell, p. 3]. Plaintiff and its counsel refused to give an appropriate extension, and THOMPSON was forced to file a motion to dismiss pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(6) on June 11, 2021 without meet and confer. [Dkt. No. 15]. WALKER filed an answer on June 14, 2021.

After THOMPSON filed her motion to dismiss, Plaintiff's counsel finally began to meet and confer. During the meet and confer process, it was agreed by all parties that a second amended complaint ("SAC") should be filed to attempt to cure the defects, including the elimination of the false light claim that was completely barred as a matter of law. Defendants' counsel agreed, and asked Plaintiff's counsel to send them the draft joint motion and stipulation pursuant to Local Rule 15. [Decl. *Stilwell*, *p. 3*].

Completely ignoring this Court's chamber rules, Plaintiff unilaterally decided to file the SAC on June 23, 2021 without first getting leave from this Court. [Dkt. No. 19]. WALKER objected to the errant filing on July 9, 2021. [Dkt. Nos. 23, 24]. The other Defendants' counsel began attempting to meet and confer with Plaintiff's counsel to clear the procedural issue. Plaintiff's counsel began to add other lawyers [Dkt. No. 21], who then came on acting as if they were not aware of the case, despite

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the fact that her name was on the caption to the complaint, FAC, and SAC, as well as had asked to be part of all of the correspondence.

After Defendants' counsel repeatedly attempting to convey the issues to Plaintiff's counsel, Plaintiff filed a response to the motion to dismiss the FAC [*Dkt. No. 26*] despite the fact that the SAC made the FAC nonexistent and requests for entry of default against all Defendants on July 12, 2021. [*Dkt. Nos. 27-31*]. WALKER again objected to the entry of default on July 13, 2021. [*Dkt. No. 32*].

Thankfully, the Court cleared out all of the errant filings, and we are timely responding to the SAC herein.

### LAW AND ARGUMENT

I.

### **MOTION TO STRIKE**

### A. The SAC Was Improperly Filed

Pursuant to Fed. Rule of Civ. Proc. 15, subd. (a), once a party has answered to a complaint, and amended complaint cannot be filed except with a stipulation of the parties or leave of court. [FRCP 15, subd. (a)]. Local Rule 15 states that any stipulation by the parties has to be submitted as a joint motion and receive an order from the court prior to the stipulation being valid. [L.R. 15]. Plaintiff ignored all of these rules when it filed the SAC. Plaintiff had not filed a joint motion, despite being reminded of it by Defendants' counsel. It was improper to file the SAC without permission of this court and it should therefore be stricken. [FRCP 12, subd. (f); 15, subd. (a)(2); United States ex rel. Mathews v. HeathSouth Corp., 332 F.3d 293, 295-296 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003)].

### **B.** The SAC Negates the FAC

An amended complaint supersedes a previous complaint, and except for the sham pleading doctrine completely destroys the prior pleading. [Valdadez-Lopez v. Chertoff, 656 F.3d 851, 857 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2011)]. An amended complaint also moots a

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motion to dismiss. [*Ibid.*]. Thus, by filing the SAC, Plaintiff has destroyed the FAC and mooted the motion to dismiss. How can she now file a response to the motion to dismiss? It is improper and should be stricken. [FRCP 12, subd. (f); Weintraub v. Law Officer of Patenaude & Felix, A.P.C., 299 FRD 661, 664 (SD CA 2014)].

#### C. The Motion to Dismiss Stays any Default Being Taken

It appears from the docket that Plaintiff is acquiescing to Defendant's arguments that the SAC was improperly filed and is not operative. However, a notice of errata or some withdrawal of the SAC would have been appropriate and helpful to avoid all of this confusion. If that is the case however, Plaintiff is speaking out of both sides of their mouth. If its FAC is the operative complaint, then the original motion to dismiss is not moot, and stays all defaults. [Doe v. Unocal Corp. (CD CA 1998) 27 F.Supp.2d 1174, 1180, aff'd (9th Cir. 2001) 248 F3d 915, 920 (abrogation on other grounds recognized by Williams v. Yamaha Motor Co. Ltd. (9th Cir. 2017) 851 F3d 1015, 1024)]. Therefore, Plaintiff cannot take default against Defendants, and the requests should be stricken. [FRCP 12, subd. (f); Nishimatsu Const. Co., Ltd. v. Houston Nat'l Bank, 515 F.2d 1200, 1206 (5th Cir. 1975)]. Further, with all of the procedural confusion that Plaintiff is created, this Court would be well within its discretion to excuse nonresponse. [Edelman v. Belco Title & Escrow, LLC, 754] F.3d 389, 395 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014)].

II.

### **MOTION TO DISMISS**

Assuming that the FAC is still the operative complaint, Defendants, THOMPSON, PAPCIAK, BULIS, and BREAKINGCODE SILENCE, INC. (hereafter jointly "Defendants") reassert the objections to the FAC as follows:

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### **A.** Plaintiff's Claims Against Defendants Are Not Plausible Under Twombly/Iqbal

Document 36-1

To determine whether a pleading adequately states a plausible claim for relief, a court must first take "note of the elements a plaintiff must plead to state a claim." Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 675, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1947 (2009). To establish a "plausible" claim, the complaint must contain "more than labels and conclusions" or "formulaic recitations of the elements of a cause of action." Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555, 127 S.Ct. 1955, 1965 (2007). The Twombly/Iqbal standard requires a complaint to contain sufficient factual allegations to show a "plausible" claim for relief. Bissessur v. Indiana Univ. Bd. of Trustees, 581 F.3d 599, 603 (7th Cir. 2009).

Plaintiff only alleges anything against THOMPSON in five of the 105 total paragraphs of the complaint, even though THOMPSON is included in the headings for 8 of the 9 claims alleged therein. Further, one of the allegations is that THOMPSON is a resident of Texas, which has not substantive value to the claims beyond jurisdiction. Dkt. No. 5, p. 3.

Paragraph 24 alleges that THOMPSON was "involved with BCS from 2019 through early 2021," and separated from BCS "in or around February or March 2021." Dkt. No. 5, p. 6. Paragraph 32 alleges that THOMPSON changed her G-Suite password and Plaintiff cannot gain access. Dkt. No. 5, p. 7. Paragraph 43 alleges that Plaintiff sent THOMPSON a demand letter. Dkt. No. 5, p. 8. Lastly, paragraph 67 alleges that a judicial determination is necessary regarding the trademarks and THOMPSON's ownership or abandonment of them. Dkt. No. 1, p. 12.

Regarding the remaining Defendants, the registered trademark owners, PAPCIAK and BULIS could not possibly infringe upon their own trademark. The USPTO's judicially noticeable records show that BULIS and PAPCIAK are original owners, and therefore nothing within the SAC can dispute that and a motion to

dismiss is proper.

# 1. Plaintiff Has Not Pled a Claim for Trademark Infringement Against DEFENDANTS

To resolve whether Plaintiff has a claim for trademark infringement for Defendants' alleged use of "BREAKING CODE SILENSE" or "BREAKINGCODESILENCE," Plaintiff must first show whether Plaintiff has a valid, protectable trademark interest in the marks. <u>Brookfield Commc'ns, Inc. v. W. Coast Ent. Corp.</u>, 174 F.3d 1036, 1046-1047 (9th Cir. 1999). Registration of the mark on the Principal Register in the Patent and Trademark Office constitutes prima facie evidence of the validity of the registered mark and of the owner's exclusive right to use the mark on the goods and services specified in the registration. See *15 U.S.C.* §§ 1057(b); 1115(a).

According to the USPTO's registry (known as "TESS"), the marks were originally registered under the original Joint-Owners in September 2020, which includes PAPCIAK and BULIS. [See Decl. Stilwell, pp. 3-4, and RJN, Ex. A]. Further, according to the California Secretary of State's registry, Plaintiff was not in existence at that time, having been incorporated in March of 2021. [See Decl. Stilwell, pp. 4-5, and RJN, Ex. B]. Plaintiff cannot be allege infringement on a mark that it does not own, nor can Plaintiff allege ownership when it was not in existence when the mark was originally registered by the six partners.

Plaintiff has alleged that the mark was abandoned by the Joint Owners (*Dkt. 5*, *Compl.*, *p. 12*, ¶67), however the TESS registry does not indicate that the six partners abandoned their trademark application. Plaintiff also tries to allege that the marks were "assigned" (*Dkt. 5*, *Compl.*, *p. 12*, ¶67), however this is a conclusory remark, not a factual allegation. [See <u>Twombly</u>, *supra*, 550 U.S. at p. 555, 127 S.Ct. at p. 1965]. Further, Plaintiff is asserting that Josh (who is not a part of Plaintiff) is the source of the first use in commerce claim to the mark in 2010, which Josh has

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publicly refuted. [Decl. Scarpuzzi, p. 2]. Plaintiff provides no allegations as to how it was assigned, when it was assigned, and whether all six owners had assigned the mark to Plaintiff. In fact, according to the USPTO, the six Joint Owners still own the mark. [RJN, Ex. A]. This judicially noticeable evidence controverts Plaintiff's claims on the face of the complaint, and her lack of factual allegations to support the conclusory remarks leaves this claim "unplausible" under the Iqbal/Twombly standard.

### 2. Plaintiff Has Not Pled A Claim for Unfair Competition Against **Defendants**

To establish a trademark infringement claim under section 32 of the Lanham Act or an unfair competition claim under section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, Plaintiff must establish that any of the Defendants are using a mark confusingly similar to a valid, protectable trademark of *Brookfield*'s. [Brookfield Commc'ns, Inc. v. W. Coast Ent. Corp., 174 F.3d 1036, 1046 (9th Cir. 1999)]. Plaintiff has made no allegations that THOMPSON has used the marks at all. The only allegation is that THOMPSON changed her G-Suite password, which is not owned by Plaintiff. Dkt. No. 5, p. 7. There are no other factual allegations of any actions taken by THOMPSON<sup>1</sup>.

Additionally, the facts alleged against PAPCIAK and BULIS are for things they already did prior to Plaintiff's existence and pursuant to their joint-ownership. Plaintiff has not alleged that it actually owns the marks, and the judicially noticeable evidence states that the Joint Owners actually own it. Therefore, Plaintiff cannot allege infringement of what it does not own.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Further, the exhibits that Plaintiff filed with its complaint only mention THOMPSON once. [See Dkt. 5-1, Compl., Ex. A]. However, that is only THOMPSON's name (without any mention of BREAKING CODE SILENCE) on the side bar entitled "People also viewed" attached to CHELSEA FILER's Linked In page. [Dkt. 5-1, Compl., Ex. A, p. 2]. It's not even THOMPSON's page. There is no allegation whatsoever that THOMPSON ever used the mark at all.

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#### *3*. Plaintiff Has Not Pled A Claim for Injunctive Relief Against

### **Defendants**

"A plaintiff is entitled to a preliminary injunction in a trademark case when he demonstrates either (1) a combination of probable success on the merits and the possibility of irreparable injury or (2) the existence of serious questions going to the merits and that the balance of hardships tips sharply in his favor." [Brookfield Commc'ns, Inc. v. W. Coast Ent. Corp., 174 F.3d 1036, 1046 (9th Cir. 1999)].

From the face of the complaint and from the judicially noticeable evidence before this Court, Plaintiff cannot show either of the above elements. Plaintiff has not pled any allegations against Defendants indicating trademark infringement. According to the USPTO, Plaintiff is not an owner of the marks. Lastly, Plaintiff has not shown any hardship from any act that Defendants have allegedly taken, especially since Plaintiff has not alleged that THOMPSON has taken any action towards Plaintiff or its alleged rights.

#### 4. Plaintiff Has Not Pled A Claim for Declaratory Relief Against **Defendants**

The Declaratory Judgment Act provides that, "[i]n a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction ... any court of the United States ... may declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief is or could be sought." [28 U.S.C. § 2201(a); MedImmune, Inc. v. Genentech, Inc., 549 U.S. 118, 126, 127 S. Ct. 764, 770–71, 166 L. Ed. 2d 604 (2007)].

Plaintiff's complaint alleges only that "a controversy exists" (Dkt. 5, Compl. p. 11, ¶ 66), however never allege what the controversy is, or how there is a controversy between Plaintiff and Defendants. Plaintiff goes on to allege only that "Defendants deny all of Plaintiff's contentions," as its basis for an actual controversy. However, the controversy does not exist. The USPTO clearly states that Plaintiff is

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not an owner of the marks that Plaintiff is alleging Defendants infringed upon. Therefore, there is no controversy about who owns the marks. Additionally, Plaintiff cannot claim that it used the marks first in commerce since it did not exist at the time that the six partners registered the trademark with the USPTO. [See 15 U.S.C. §§ 1057(b); 1115(a); Brookfield Commc'ns, Inc. v. W. Coast Ent. Corp., 174 F.3d 1036, 1046-1047 (9th Cir. 1999) (presumption of ownership created by the USPTO registry can only be overcome by a showing of first use, however Plaintiff did not exist then.)].

Document 36-1

Therefore, Plaintiff has failed to allege an actual controversy, and any implied controversy that Plaintiff has attempted to make through bare conclusory remarks (in violation of the *Iqbol/Twombly* standard) is clearly resolved by the USPTO registry. A declaratory judgment claim has therefore failed to be alleged, and is ripe for dismissal. [FRCP, 12(b)(6)].

### *5*. Plaintiff Has Not Pled A Claim for Violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200 Against Defendants

California's statutory Unfair Competition Law (UCL, Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.) prohibits, and provides civil remedies for, "unfair competition," defined as "any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice." [Bank of the West v. Sup.Ct. (Industrial Indem. Co.), 2 Cal.4th 1254, 1266-1267 (1992)].

Plaintiff has failed to allege any "unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice" by Defendants. Again, the only allegation is that she changed her G-Suite password. [Dkt. No. 5, Compl., p. 7, ¶ 32]. Further, any usage of the marks by Defendants alleged within the complaint would not be "unlawful," because Plaintiff is not one of the Joint Owners of the marks. [See Decl. Stilwell, p. 2-3, and RJN, Ex. B]. Also, Plaintiff has not alleged any fraudulent business act or practice, and any allegations that imply such are inappropriate because fraud has to be pled with specificity. [FRCP, 9(b)]. Therefore, a claim under the UCL has not been alleged

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against Defendants, and is ripe for dismissal. [FRCP, 12(b)(6)].

### Plaintiff Has Not Pled A Claim for Conversion Against 6. **Defendants**

Conversion is the wrongful exercise of dominion over the personal property of another. [Mendoza v. Rast Produce Co., Inc., 140 Cal.App.4th 1395, 1403-1404 (2006)]. The elements for a claim of conversion are: "(1) the plaintiff's ownership or right to possession of the property; (2) the defendant's conversion by a wrongful act or disposition of property right; and (3) damages." [IIG Wireless, Inc. v. Yi, 22 Cal.App.5th 630, 650 (2018)].

The only actual thing that Plaintiff has alleged THOMPSON did was change the password to her G-Suite account. Plaintiff has not alleged that Plaintiff is the rightful owner of the G-Suite account, nor has Plaintiff alleged how THOMPSON's changing of the password has interfered with Plaintiff's rights to the G-Suite account. If Plaintiff was the owner of the account, it could just contact Google and have the passwords overridden or changed and THOMPSON locked out. The same is true of the Facebook group and any other social media platform. The fact that Plaintiff has been unable to do so, and has failed to allege ownership is an admission by implication that Plaintiff is not the owner of the accounts in question and therefore does not have standing to bring an action for conversion. *Ibid*.

### *7*. Plaintiff Has Not Pled a Claim for False Light Against **Defendants**

False light claims may be maintained only by individuals. False light implicates an invasion of privacy, which at common law in California is a right reserved exclusively for actual persons, since, as commonly understood, a corporation is not susceptible to the injured feelings associated with invasion of privacy torts. [Holomaxx Technologies v. Microsoft Corp., 783 F. Supp. 2d 1097, 1107 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (applying California law)].

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By its own admission, Plaintiff is a California corporation. [Dkt. 5, Compl., p. 2, ¶ 5, see Decl. Stilwell, p. 4-5, and RJN, Ex. B]. Therefore, Plaintiff has no right to bring an action for false light. [Holomaxx Technologies, supra, 783 F. Supp. 2d at p. 1107].

Document 36-1

### 8. Plaintiff Has Not Pled a Claim for Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage Against Defendants

The elements of a claim for intentional interference with prospective economic relations are: (1) an existing economic relationship between plaintiff and a third party, with the probability of future economic benefit to plaintiff; (2) defendant's knowledge of the relationship; (3) intentional acts on the part of defendant designed to disrupt the relationship; (4) actual disruption of the relationship; and (5) economic harm to plaintiff proximately caused by defendant's acts. [Roy Allan Slurry Seal, Inc. v. American Asphalt South, Inc., 2 Cal.5th 505, 512 (2017)].

Plaintiff has made only conclusory statements that "Defendants have maliciously and wrongfully obstructed and interfered with BCS's business relationships with its customers by passing themselves off as BCS and making false statements about BCS." [Dkt. 5, Compl., p. 16-17, ¶ 102]. Plaintiff has not alleged any existing economic relationship at all, nor the probability of future economic benefit. Further, Plaintiff has not identified any actions that Defendants has made to interfere with these mysterious relationships. Also, Plaintiff has not identified how those mysterious relationships have been injured, or how Plaintiff has been actually Lastly, Plaintiff has made no causal connection between anything injured. THOMPSON has allegedly done (only changing her password to her G-Suite) has proximately caused harm.

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#### If the SAC is Operative, Then Plaintiffs Have No Standing To Bring **B**. This Action

Only those who one or have rights to the trademark may assert claims based on infringement of the trademark. [15 U.S.C.A. § 1114]. Additionally, where a trademark is nonexclusive, or owned by multiple users, neither of the multiple users has standing to bring an action for infringement. [Wilson v. RSM Management, Inc., 187 F.3d 651, 651 (9th Cir. 1999); Upper Deck Company v. Panini America, Inc. 2021 WL 1388630, at p. 4 (SD CA 2021)]. The USPTO's registry provides presumptive proof that Plaintiff did not register the trademark first, and cannot therefore use registry as its basis for standing. [RJN, Ex. A]. That leaves only firstin-time usage in commerce. [15 U.S.C.A. § 1114; Halicki Films, LLC v. Sanderson Sales and Marketing, 547 F.3d 1213, 1226 (9th Cir. 2008)]. Plaintiff claims "derivative" rights because its claim is that Josh assigned it over to Plaintiff. However, Josh has posted publicly, that he never used BREAKING CODE SILENCE nor BCS in 2010 nor at all prior to 2018. [Decl. Scarpuzzi, p. 2]. These judicially noticeable facts from the person who is alleged to have assigned rights negates Plaintiff's claim. [Threshold Enterprises Ltd. v. Pressed Juicery, Inc., 445 F.Supp.3d 139, 145 (ND CA 2020)]. Therefore, Plaintiff has no argument for standing at all.

#### C. **Leave to Amend Should Not Be Granted**

Despite the Court's policies on liberal amendment, where it is clear that amendment cannot be cured by amendment, leave to amend should not be granted. Lucas v. Department of Corrections, 66 F.3d 245, 248 (9th Cir. 1995). Plaintiff's claims for trademark infringement, unfair competition, and injunctive relief under the Latham Act should be dismissed without leave to amend because Defendants' judicially noticeable evidence that the USPTO shows that Plaintiff is not an owner of the marks negates Plaintiff's trademark claims in totality. The only exception to

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the presumption of earlier use in the marketplace, however, the USPTO's registry pre-dates Plaintiff's existence, so there is no way that Plaintiff could overcome the presumption that the USPTO's registration creates. See 15 U.S.C. §§ 1057(b); 1115(a); Brookfield Commc'ns, Inc. v. W. Coast Ent. Corp., 174 F.3d 1036, 1046-1047 (9th Cir. 1999).

Similarly, Plaintiff's claims of a violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200, declaratory judgment, and conversion should be dismissed without leave to amend because Plaintiff's claim is based on the trademark infringement claim, which is fully negated, and no amendment could cure the claim. Plaintiff's claim for false light fails completely because Plaintiff is a corporation and therefore does not have any standing to bring a claim for false light. There is nothing that will change the fact that Plaintiff is a corporation, and therefore an amendment would be useless.

Lastly, Plaintiff's claim of intentional interference with prospective economic advantage should not be allowed an amendment because Plaintiff cannot allege that it is the owner of any rights to any of the social media platforms or trademark rights that would give it claim to the wrongful usage of the platforms. Further, Plaintiff cannot, and has not, asserted any claims to ownership of the social media platform rights, which are the only allegations made against Defendants.

#### **CONCLUSION**

THEREFORE, Defendants respectfully asks this honorable Court to grant her motion to dismiss the complaint without leave to amend as it relates to claims against her.

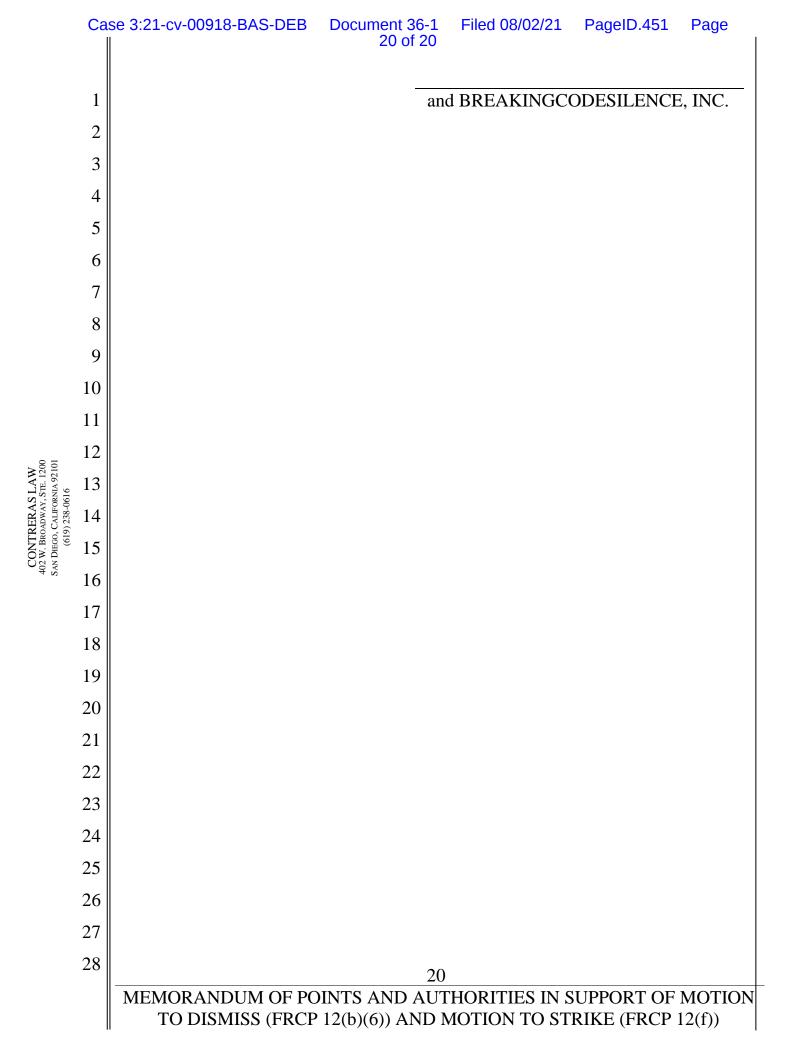
### **CONTRERAS LAW FIRM**

/s/ ANDREW R. STILWELL

Date: August 2, 2021 By:

> Andrew Stilwell, Esq. Attorneys for MARTHA THOMPSON, JENNA BULIS, CHELSEA PAPCIAK,

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS (FRCP 12(b)(6)) AND MOTION TO STRIKE (FRCP 12(f))



PURSUANT TO FRCP 12(f)

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I am an attorney licensed in the State of California and in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. I am employed by Contreras Law Firm, who has been retained by MARTHA THOMPSON ("THOMPSON"), **JENNA BULIS** ("BULIS"), **CHELSEA PAPCIAK** ("PAPCIAK"), and BREAKINGCODESILENCE, INC. ("FLORIDA CORP.") to represent them in the above-captioned action. The following items I declare as a matter of my personal knowledge, and if called to testify I would do so in the same manner.

### **Declaration Regarding Meet and Confer Prior to Filing the Motion**

- My firm was retained by the Defendants on June 8, 2021 after an 2. extensive search of attorney's to represent her, despite her residence being in Texas. I immediately reached out to opposing counsel to request an extension of time to respond to the complaint, which was due three days later on June 11, 2021. I sought the extension to give me an opportunity to review the file and the allegations of the complaint, and to give me the opportunity to meet and confer with opposing counsel pursuant to Local Rule and this Court's standing order 4A.
- Opposing counsel did not immediately respond, and then only granted three days extension claiming she did not have the authority to grant the extension I had asked for. This was not true, for several reasons: (1) California Code of Civil Procedure § 283 states that an attorney "shall have the authority to bind her client in any of the steps of an action or proceeding by his agreement filed with the Clerk;" (2) the California Rules of Professional Conduct, as codified in the State Bar Act as California Business & Professions Code, specifically Rule 1.2(a) states that attorneys have authority to made decisions within the bounds of "procedural matters;" (3) the California Supreme Court has also stated that attorneys have such authority in Linsk v. Linsk, 70 Cal.2d 272, 277 (1969). An extension of time is a procedural matter.

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Ibid.

- 4. Further, Local Rule 2.1(a)(3)(d) clearly states that attorneys are not to arbitrarily or unreasonably withhold consent to a reasonable request for cooperation or accommodation. I was hired three days before THOMPSON's response date, and I had asked for two weeks of time to review the case and to meet and confer within the 7 days as required by Local Rule and this Court's standing order 4A. This was not an unreasonable request. However, opposing counsel hid behind her client's authority, which was not required to grant the extension, to delay until the deadline to respond to force THOMPSON into a prejudicial position.
- It is because of this unprofessional conduct by both opposing counsel and Plaintiff, BREAKING CODE SILENCE, that I was unable to meet and confer with opposing counsel until June 10, 2021, whereby I stated that the complaint was subject to a motion to dismiss pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(6) because of the lack of allegations of towards THOMPSON. The email was responded to only with a response that opposing counsel was "signing off for the night."
- I asked the Court to relieve me of my obligation to meet and confer 7 days prior to filing this motion, as it is required to be filed on June 11, 2021, and I had been unable to get an extension of time to have that meeting.
- 7. After I filed the first motion to dismiss, Plaintiff's counsel finally had a meet and confer meeting with me. We discussed the issues and agreed that another amended complaint would be the most efficient route. I asked Plaintiff's counsel to send me a copy of the stipulation pursuant to this Court's chamber rules.
- 8. Instead of circulating the stipulation and joint motion, Plaintiff's counsel errantly file the amended complaint without the joint motion and stipulation as required by this Court' rule.

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<b>Declaration</b>	oi rac	ı Kelevanı	w	tne	Mouon

- 9. On June 7, 2021, while doing my due diligence into accepting retention of THOMAS as a client, I went to the USPTO website, specifically the TESS registry database, and searched the marks alleged to have been violated in the complaint: BREAKING CODE SILENCE and BREAKINGCODESILENCE.
- 10. I discovered that on September 3, 2020, BREAKINGCODESILENCE was registered on the USPTO TESS registry to JEN ROBINSON, KATHERINE McNAMARA, JENNA BULIS, CHELSEA PAPCIAK, REBECCA MOORMAN, and EMILY CARTER. These will jointly be referred to as the "Joint Owners." *See RJN, Ex. A.*
- 11. I also discovered that on September 24, 2020, BREAKING CODE SILENCE was registered on the USPTO TESS registry to the Joint Owners. *Ibid.*
- 12. Nowhere on the registry did BREAKING CODE SILENCE show up on the registrations.
- 13. Further, the registry stated that BREAKING CODE SILENCE was first used on April 1, 2013, and first used in commerce on June 1, 2019. BREAKINGCODESILENCE was first used on March 12, 2013, and first used in commerce on January 1, 2019.
- 14. BREAKINGCODESILENCE was used for "Activism and advocacy group of troubled teen program survivors ... providing education on boarding schools and teen programs."
- 15. BREAKING CODE SILENCE was used for "Promoting the interests of troubled teens by means of public advocacy."
  - 16. Neither of the marks show as abandoned.
- 17. Subsequently, I found a registry for BREAKING CODE SILENCE filed by "Breaking Code Silence, Inc." on May 5, 2021, stating the mark was to be used for "Providing services aimed at aimed at preventing institutional child abuse and

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empowering adult survivors to engage in positive self-advocacy; services to promote the interests of trouble teens by means of public advocacy." This registry stated that BREAKING CODE SILENCE was first used on December 11, 2019, and first used in commerce on that same day.

- 18. I also found a registry for BREAKING CODE SILENCE filed by "Breaking Code Silence, Inc." on May 6, 2021, stating the mark was to be used for "On-line articles, stories, blogs and speaking engagements aimed at preventing institutional child abuse and empowering adult survivors to engage in positive selfadvocacy." This registry stated that BREAKING CODE SILENCE was first used on October 18, 2018, and first used in commerce on that same day.
- On January 9, 2021, I went to the California Secretary of State's website 19. and activated its "business search portal," and looked up "Breaking Code Silence" in the corporations directory. There I found one entity named "Breaking Code Silence." It was registered on March 22, 2021, as filing number 4721336. See RJN, Ex. B.
- 20. According to its articles of incorporation, the name for Plaintiff, BREAKING CODE SILENCE, is "Breaking Code Silence," not "Breaking Code Silence, Inc.," which is the entity who registered the marks in the USPTO in May 2021. Ibid., see also RJN, Ex. A.
- The legal name for Plaintiff as "Breaking Code Silence" (without the 21. "Inc.") is confirmed in its statement of information that it filed on May 1, 2021, with the Secretary of State. See RJN, Ex. B.

### **CONTRERAS LAW FIRM**

/s/ANDREW R. STILWELL Date: August 2, 2021 By: Andrew Stilwell, Declarant

DECLARATION OF ANDREW STILWELL IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO FRCP 12(b)(6) AND MOTION TO STRIKE PURSUANT TO FRCP 12(f)

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1. I am a defendant in the above-entitled matter. I have personal knowledge of the matters I have declared herein, and do hereby submit this declaration in support of the motion to strike and motion to dismiss filed by the Defendants herein. If called to testify I would do so in the same manner.

### **Declaration Regarding Meet and Confer Prior to Filing the Motion**

- 2. I am a survivor of institutional child abuse within the "Troubled Teen" Industry, and as a youth advocate, I have a long history of involvement with the survivor community since 2004. I have dedicated my life's work over the last two decades to the mission of saving future generations from institutional child abuse.
- As part of my advocacy, I have created several informational websites to raise awareness and elevate the voices of the survivors who experienced abuse within these programs. I have focused heavily on writing and lobbying for both state and federal legislation that would aim to reform this troublesome industry. I have created the largest and most active Facebook support group dedicated to the survivors of WWASP Programs and routinely participate in social media postings in electronic message boards to support ongoing advocacy efforts. I have been posting steadily on Facebook since 2012 and have contributed to online databases, forums, books and studies in reference to the "Troubled Teen" Industry. I have given presentations, speaking engagements, media interviews and participated in the production of documentaries on this subject. I have most recently planned and presented in the educational webinar series hosted by the American Bar Association: Far from Home Far from Safe - A Troubled Industry.
- On August 19, 2014 I published the first #breakingcodesilence challenge on WWASPSurvivors.com/breakingcodesilence, a website/ domain that I solely own. A true and correct copy of the webpage where I first published the campaign in 2014 is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and incorporated fully herein by this reference.

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- 5. The campaign was a coalition effort between my organization WWASP Survivors and other survivor advocacy groups such as Survivors of Institutional Abuse Organization, and Safe Teen Schools. In 2015 the #breakingcodesilence campaign was used notably by SIA (an organization that I volunteered for) in several conferences, events and was featured in E! Network's original production Dash Dolls, with survivor Caroline Burt. In 2016-2017 #breakingcodesilence was utilized to raise awareness and garner support for the Protect Youth from Institutional Abuse campaign with SIA and the LA LGBT Center to pass the Community Care Facilities Act in CA as well as the re-introduction of the federal legislation Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2017
- I have continuously utilized the name BREAKING CODE SILENCE in 6. commerce since 2014, and continue to do so presently. In 2014 I created custom bracelets inscribed with the made mark #breakingcodesilence and WWASPSurvivors.com. I sold this merchandise and gave them away to raise donations at several events throughout the years. I also passed them out to the survivors that attended the Breaking Code Silence Rally in October 2020. A true and correct copy of the bracelets and their dissemination in commerce is attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and incorporated fully herein by this reference.
- 7. As a graphic artist, I made several custom made logos, T-shirt designs and marketing materials for Breaking Code Silence. We got a great response from the community, and we began to sell the merchandise on https://www.teepublic.com/user/breaking-code-silence-official site on April 20th 2021. A true and correct copy of the website with my logos is attached hereto as **Exhibit** C and incorporated fully herein by this reference.
- One of those supporters was JOSH SCARPUZZI, who was also a survivor, writer, and social media presence with TTI. See Decl. Scarpuzzi, p. 2.

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- 9. In February 2019 I gave JENNA BULIS express permission to revamp the #breakingcodesilence campaign and we began to work together to formalize it into a non-profit organization. As a team we created the Facebook pages, Twitter, and Facebook groups that became the hub for the movement. JEN WALKER aka ROBISON, short videos, original logos, website created and our breakingcodesilence.net.
- 10. WALKER was elected the president and CEO of BCS, I became the Chief Operations Officer (COO), MARTHA THOMPSON was the Chief Financial Officer and JENNA BULIS was the Senior Public Relations Coordinator.
- 11. August 2020 #breakingcodesilence was featured in Paris Hilton's documentary This is Paris. It was during this time that I and JENNA BULIS were working with Paris Hilton's producers and pitched #breakingcodesilence to be promoted on her documentary. Paris Hilton's support of #breakingcodesilence brought mass awareness and propelled our grassroots campaign into a formidable force for change.
- September of 2020 I, and five others including JENNA BULIS and 12. JENNIFER WALKER aka ROBISON, filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office an application to trademark both "BREAKING CODE SILENCE," and "BREAKINGCODESILENCE." The printout in Exhibit A of the Request for Judicial Notice filed herewith is a true and accurate representation of the date the application was filed, trademark names, owners, and usage description that the six of us filed.
- 13. October 7, 2020 a fiscal sponsorship contract was established by myself and JENNIFER WALKER aka ROBISON with the National Youth Rights Association (NYRA) on behalf of the intended 501c3 under the name Breaking Code Silence Project, which allowed us to fundraise and operate as an informal organization while we worked towards building the infrastructure, management and articles of incorporation of the entity. A true and correct copy of the Fiscal

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Sponsorship Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit D and incorporated fully herein by this reference.

- 14. In January 2021, a grant proposal was submitted to the Hilton Foundation for \$500,000 on behalf of BCS. The BCS Team had previously discussed and decided the direction and plan for how we could provide free tele-health services for survivors, explained this plan in detail to the grant writer and were under the impression that this plan would be what would be proposed to the Hilton Foundation. Communication about the grant was intercepted and limited thereafter to KATHERINE McNAMARA, and VANESSA HUGHES. The BCS Team was left out of the process of applying for this grant and was not allowed to view, discuss or approve the proposal before it was submitted to the Hilton Foundation. Once the grant had been filed and the rest of the BCS Team were able to obtain a copy of the grant proposal, several of us raised some concerns about the proposed project.
- 15. The application submitted was in fact very different from what we had originally proposed during the grant writing process. It included granting the entirety of the funds to VANESSA HUGHES and the University of North Carolina Wilmington. We were also concerned about the disbursement of the grant funds as the terms within the proposal were not exactly clear nor approved by BCS's administrative/ finance management team. When these concerns were addressed directly with VANESSA HUGHES, she stated that BCS would not be responsible for disbursement of the funds and would be required to accept the grant and immediately redirect the entirety of the grant funds into the account of a separate and unrelated non-profit; Vetitation, a non-profit of which VANESSA HUGHES is a board member and Executive Director of Operations. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, we agreed that we would need to maintain a degree of separation between BCS and VANESSA HUGHES. A true and correct copy of the Hilton Foundation Grant Application is attached hereto as **Exhibit E** and incorporated fully herein by this reference.

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- On March 9, 2021, one of the joint owners of our trademark, 16. KATHERINE McNAMARA quit BREAKING CODE SILENCE due to a "disagreement in direction" of the organization and privately and publicly announced her resignation. Despite the fact that she had already quit, KATHERINE McNAMARA provided us with an ultimatum on March 10, 2021 that we would allow VANESSA HUGHES to direct BCS. Although we had previously agreed, given the fact that VANESSA HUGHES was the recipient of the grant, that we could not hire VANESSA HUGHES in any capacity. We reiterated that our decision to decline hiring VANESSA HUGHES was a prudent action to ensure that we would be in compliance and could be transparent to our donors and the IRS.
- 17. On March 14, 2021, during a meeting to discuss the election of a new CEO and the incorporation of BREAKING CODE SILENCE as a non-profit organization, KATHERINE McNAMARA exploited unauthorized access to our servers, disabled and revoked access to our emails, google drives, website, social media accounts, and downloaded and deleted sensitive data from our servers. Despite multiple requests to return our property and settle this matter amicably, KATHERINE McNAMARA and VANESSA HUGHES repeatedly refused.
- 18. We were able to recover a few of these accounts by reporting them as stolen to Squarespace and Google Workspace. Through an extensive investigation, we were proven to be the original owners of these accounts and our access was restored. Several accounts have not been recoverable because they were either taken over by KATHERINE McNAMARA or were disabled in a way that neither party has been able to recover.
- 19. KATHERINE McNAMARA neither created nor contributed to the establishment of BCS. She simply came on as a volunteer after her cameo in Paris Hilton's This is Paris documentary in 2020. She was elected into a leadership position thereafter, but had no right to hostile takeover BCS. BCS' bylaws explicitly established a formal procedure for the removal of any founder and that process was

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not carried out when the 5 original founders were revoked access to their accounts without cause, warning or due process. In any event, KATHERINE McNAMARA was technically a former volunteer at that date, and had no right to remove anyone from BCS. It is my opinion that these actions were taken deliberately as an act of sabotage of our organization's progress toward filing for 501c3 status and an attempt to divert the Hilton Foundation grant to an entity of which KATHERINE McNAMARA and VANESSA HUGHES had full control.

- Shortly after this incident, KATHERINE McNAMARA submitted a 20. new trademark application for BREAKING CODE SILENCE ACTION NETWORK in her name; this was the name we had considered to name our official non-profit. KATHERINE McNAMARA also filed for name reservations and incorporation under our name BREAKING CODE SILENCE which includes herself as the registered CFO, VANESSA HUGHES as CEO and JENNY MaGILL as secretary. Several subsequent trademarks on behalf of this "New BCS" were filed, falsely claiming that their use of the mark dates back to 2010. One of these new trademarks also claims first use in 2019, on the date that JENNIFER WALKER aka ROBISON created our website breakingcodesilence.net. As well, this trademark claims that we first used our mark in commerce on the same day, which is inaccurate because BCS did not use the mark in commerce until April 20, 2021. Both of these trademarks are erroneous as they claim use when it was impossible for their entity to have done so, as it did not exist. This trademark is a deliberate misrepresentation of ownership as it falsely claims use of the website and commerce accounts that this new entity neither created nor currently have access to.
- 21. On July 8, 2021, I was informed of a public post made by JOSH SCARPUZZI that described his experience with the New BCS, his concerns with their leadership and his reasoning for resigning as a volunteer for the organization. Among his claims was a statement that he felt he was used by this New BCS, and that he was manipulated and coerced into signing the rights to his literary works and

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his associated IP (website and Facebook page) to the New BCS organization. He said he was uncomfortable with claiming copyright dating back to 2010 because in fact he did not brand his collection of poems Breaking Code Silence until 2018, 4 years after my original campaign was published. See Decl. Scarpuzzi, p. 1.

- 22. Due to the nature of this split and the dispute over ownership of the name and organization BREAKING CODE SILENCE, much confusion and controversy has been created with the public as to why a New BCS was created without the original founders. A deliberate smear campaign has been launched by this New BCS in an attempt to discredit the original founders of BCS, to justify these egregious actions and alienate us from our beloved community. I have personally suffered incredible cruelty, slander, stalking, harassment and attacks, not only upon my character, but also the reputation of my group, WWASP Survivors.
- 23. McNAMARA and this New BCS have no rights to take credit for the accomplishments of the original BCS nor claim ownership of our intellectual property. I am still the originator, founder and registered trademark owner of BREAKING CODE SILENCE and BREAKINGCODESILENCE and I reserve all my rights to use the mark to continue to manage the original #breakingcodesilence campaign.

I declare this is true and correct under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

#### **CONTRERAS LAW FIRM**

Date: August 2, 2021 By:

/s/ CHELSEA PAPCIAK

Chelsea Papciak, Declarant

# **EXHIBIT A**

Troubled Teen Industry

Politics

Subscribe: Pasts | Comments



About WWASP Survivors

About WWASP =

WWASP Programs \*

Survivor Testimony

Research =

Facebook Group

Donate

Fundraisers





The Truth Will Set Them Free! Share Your Story, Make a Difference.

SUBMIT TESTIMONY



August 19, 2014

13 Comments

### #BreakingCodeSilence - The Challenge

WWASPSurvivors, SafeTeenSchools, the SIA Organization (Survivors of Institutional Abuse) and Shut Down Logan River have just launched the #BreakingCodeSilence Challenge, a challenge designed to bring awareness to the issues of institutional child abuse in residential treatment centers and teen behavior modification programs. As we speak, as we live and breathe and enjoy our everyday freedoms, there are thousands [...]

Continue reading...



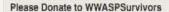




Report Abuse







This fund is to provide support, assistance and essential care packages for struggling survivors. Please donate today!











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Howdy, WWASP Survivors 🥞



me About WWASP Survivors ~

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Survivor Testimony ~

esearch ~

Blog



### BREAKING CODE SILENCE

WWASP Survivors has teamed up with BreakingCodeSilence.net and SDLS (Suburbia's Dirty Little Secret) to support the #breakingcodesilence campaign to spread awareness of the troubled teen industry and the need for reform.

BREAKING CODE SILENCE

Each year, thousands of teenagers are held against



### their will, in residential treatment centers.

These for-profit programs masquerade as therapeutic treatment centers and operate with impunity due to lack of government oversight. Teens can be held for years in facilities that claim to treat mental health and perform behavior modification but do not follow psychological guidelines for treatment.

The "treatment" these children receive is far from therapeutic. Instead, the abuse can leave survivors with lifelong trauma, including PTSD. This systemic abuse goes back decades - many of these programs have been shut down only to have others take their place.

Without government intervention, thousands of teens will continue to suffer abuse. Some have even died or taken their own life to escape the trauma. Countless victims have suffered after returning home from these facilities as a result of the lack of mental health treatment and unresolved trauma.



Paris Hilton joins #BreakingCodeSilence to speak candidly about trauma she experienced at Provo Canyon School in her new documentary This is Paris airing Sept. 14th 2020 on Youtube.

These programs exist globally and throughout the United States. They advertise themselves as premier rehab and treatment centers but are instead for-profit, privately-run detention centers. These programs deceive desperate parents and abuse the children they claim to help.

Please see our Red Flags list to learn to recognize abusive programs.

PageID.470

DETAILS

Document 36-3

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### What is Breaking Code Silence

### BACKGROUND

In the program, Code Silence is used to punish and demoralize students through forced social isolation. This oppressive silence can last for days, weeks, even months, up to years, if the student does not progress in the levels. This form of treatment causes feelings of frustration, abandonment and separation anxiety (the side effects have proven to result in complex trauma symptoms years after release). By literally taking student's voices away, the program takes away the child's right to express themselves, report abuse and make relationships with other students. Socialization and the developing brain of a teenager are extremely important. In a toxic totalitarian environment, the last thing a child needs is to be silenced. That silence ends today...

We will be silent no more.

### #BREAKINGCODESILENCE

#BreakingCodeSilence was created to encourage survivors of institutional abuse to stand up and testify about the abuse in their programs. We speak out today not for ourselves but for all the victims suffering in these troubled programs, with no rights to call for help.

Breaking Code Silence is a testament to the realities of the troubled teen industry - by us, the survivors. We hope this demonstration of empowerment and support for all survivors will gain widespread awareness which will fuel legislative action. In previous years, we have fought to bring forward both statewide and Federal legislative reform. To this day, no such federal regulations exist to reign in the Troubled Teen Industry. We will continue to hold our lawmakers accountable and push for legislation that will end institutional abuse. By telling our stories, we will unify our voice that:

We are Breaking Code Silence.

This cycle of abuse and corruption needs to stop, we are not disposable, we demand justice!

2015 ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

### **Utah's Troubled Teen Industry**

LICENSED PROGRAMS

KIDS IN PROGRAMS

ANNUAL REVENUE

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS** 

72

11k

\$328M

0

Data based on a 2015 study of Economic Impact of Utah's Family Choice Behavioral Healthcare Interventions Industry. By Kem C Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah. \*Note that 18% of programs did NOT report their revenue and this study does NOT include unlicensed religious programs. To date no statistics exist to quantify the Troubled Teen Industry.

SUBMIT TESTIMONY

Are you a survivor of institutional abuse?

Click here for more information about submitting testimony to

## Written Testimony

## INSTRUCTIONS

WRITE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE IN A PROGRAM OR

FACILITY IN ROUGHLY 800 WORDS.

Include the age you were taken, and the year(s) kept in program.

Write what was done to you and/or what you witnessed done to others. Please write only from your own experience and not of anything you've heard or read which you did not yourself witness or experience.

Have a photo which you are willing to share of you at the approximate age you were when taken. (if you have no photo, a current photo is fine. We can release stories

with no photo at all, but having one is more impactful.)

Tag #BreakingCodeSilence and end your story with your name, and "I am Breaking Code Silence"

Be aware of and willing to sign a permission and declaration of factual testimony.

#BREAKING CODESILENCE

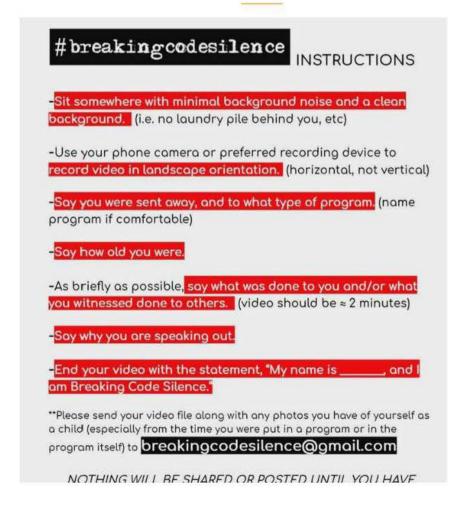
# SUBMIT TESTIMONY

**Page** 

or Contraction

### SUBMIT TESTIMONY

### **Video Testimony**





siits Jen #BreakingCodeSile...





### INSTRUCTIONS

# **Photo Submissions**

### INSTRUCTIONS

## Here's what you will need:

- 1 White Poster board (or you can do this on a letter sized piece of paper)
- Black Permanent Marker (thicker tipped markers are
- Duct Tape (red or silver/gray preferred)
- Scissors
- A Clean, Solid Background (ex: a neutral colored wall

STEP 1. Using your marker and LARGE, clear handwriting, fill out your poster board like the diagram below.

STEP 2. Cut the duct tape to cover your mouth. This is not fun, we know, but it will be worth it! STEP 3. Stand in front of the background, and hold your

- Something Which Takes A Good Photo (ex: smartphone, digital camera, or good webcam)
- A Friend, to take the photo (if not you can use the timer feature on your device)

### TIPS & TRICKS

The bolder your handwriting is, the better! Once you have your poster board, set yourself up for success. Find your clean background and set up your camera (or friend with camera) to take the photo. If you are doing it yourself, it helps to have the phone/camera/computer set up so you can see the screen and position yourself.

poster board so your hand is not covering the words. Try to keep the poster board as straight as you can.

STEP 4. It's up to you whether you want to leave the tape as it is or if you want to use one hand to act as if you are pulling the tape off, you are literally #breakingcodesilence!

STEP 5. Take (or have your friend take!) several photos, so you have options.

STEP 6. Once you have selected your favorite photo, send it to us at breakingcodesilence@gmail.com!

### Type or Name of Program

Years Kept in Program (Ex: 2000-2003)

4 Points describing your experience and/or negative effects

- Physically Abused
- Held in Isolation for 30 daysNightmares
- · Diagnosed with PTSD

#breakingcodesilence

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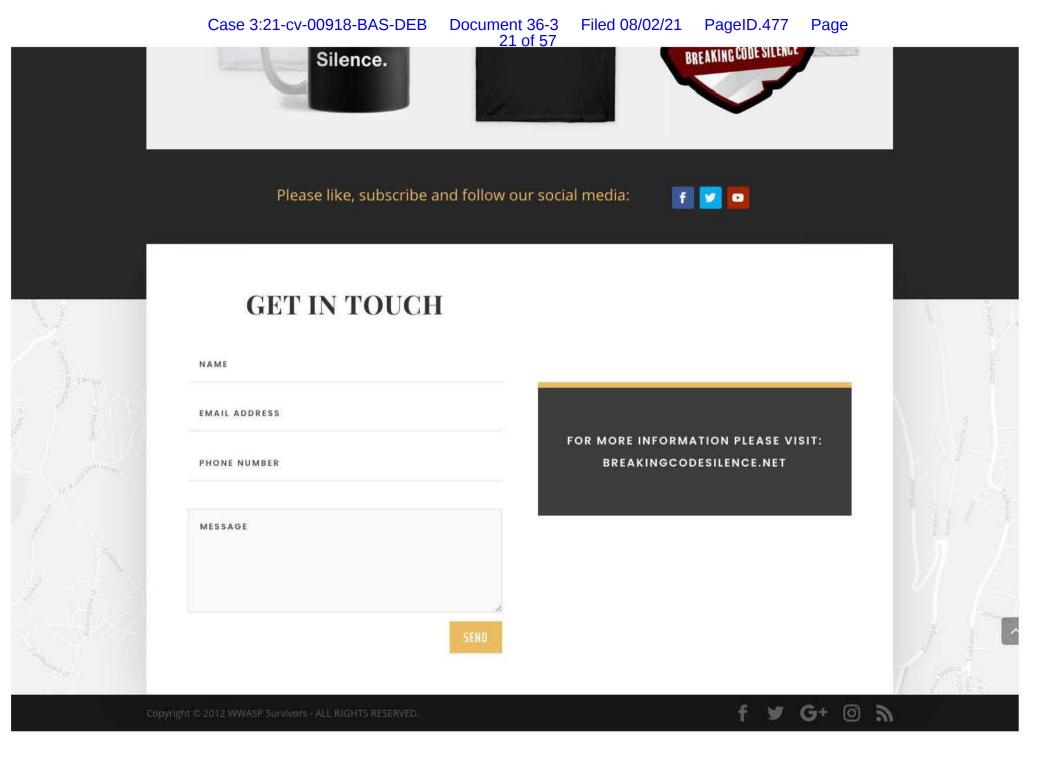


#BREAKINGCODESILENCE

### **SUBMIT #BCS PHOTO**

GET STARTED







### carolineburt Follow













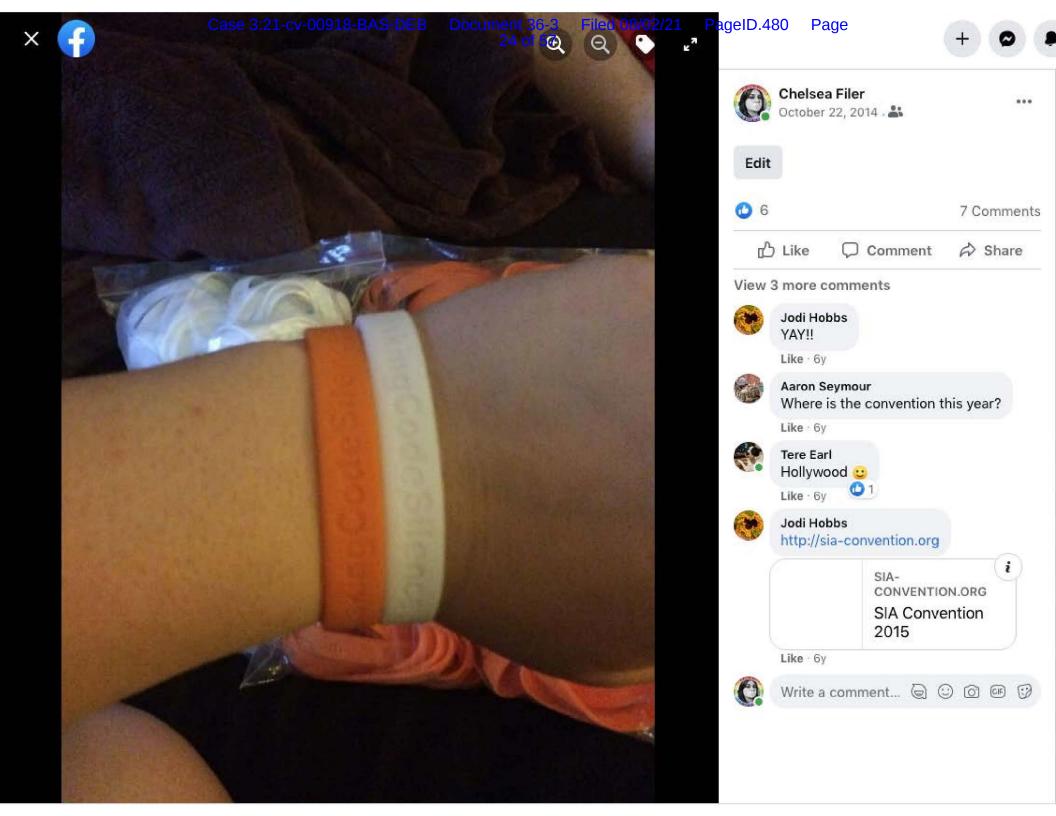


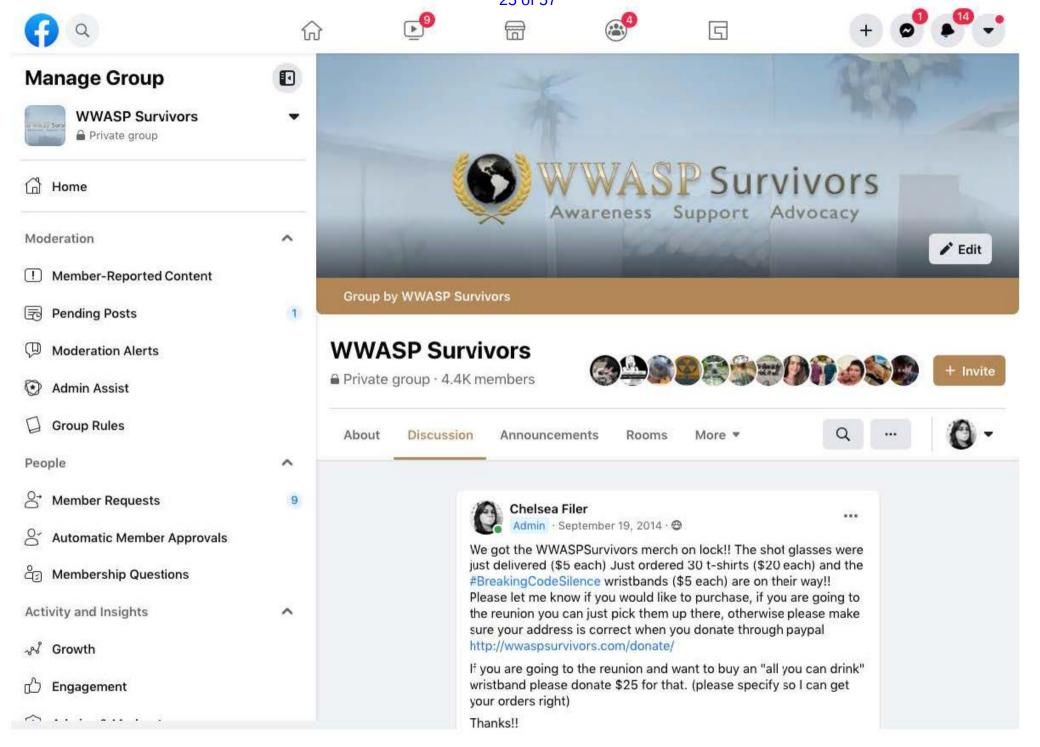
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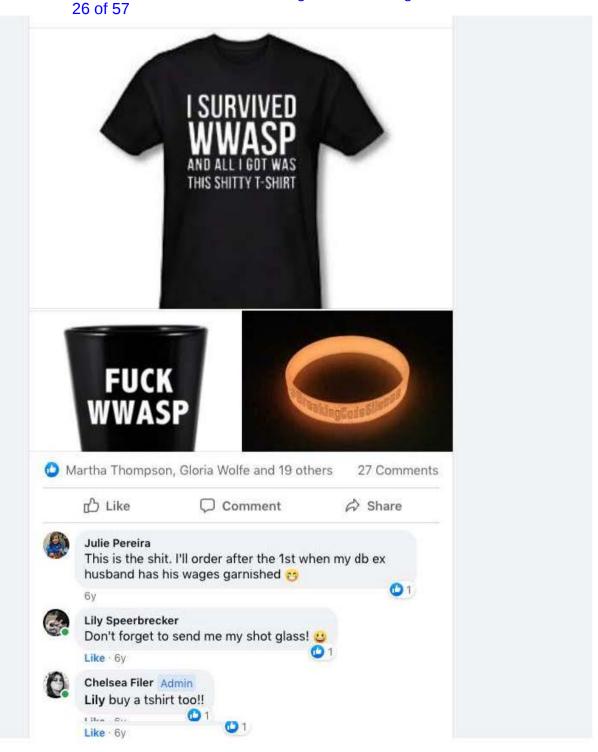
carolineburt I am so super excited about... more

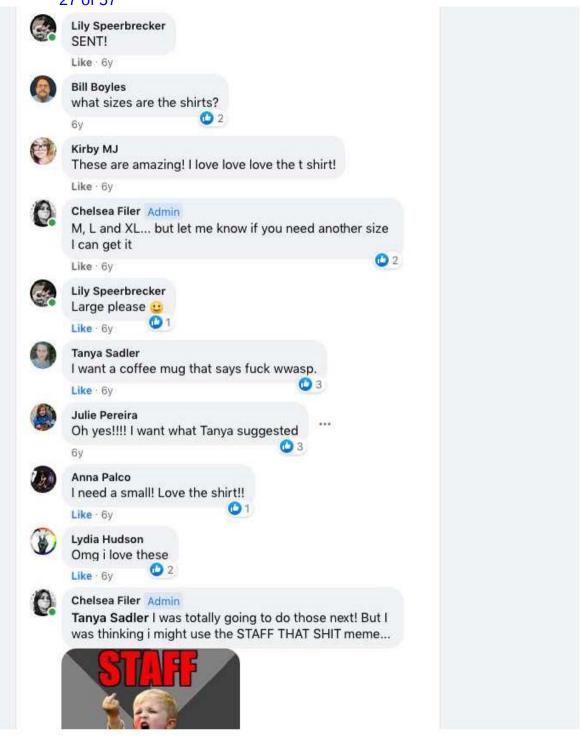
July 12, 2015

### **EXHIBIT B**

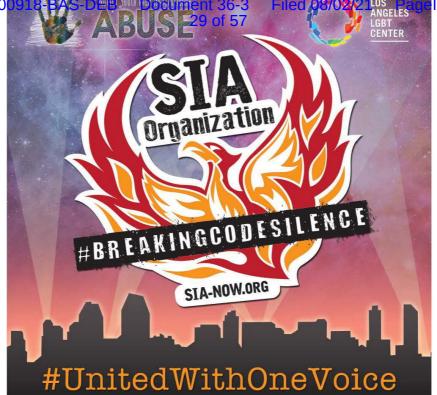








Case 3:21-cv-00918-BAS-DEB Document 36-3 Filed 08/02/21 PageID.484 Page 28 of 57 Like 6y **Bill Boyles** i need 2x, but i doubt i'm going to get one, morey's tight... 01 Bill Boyles damn people love the shirts, we really do need to open up a Troubled Teen Industry Memes cafepress, Chells 6у Amanda Boyles I want one but don't have the money right this sec. Hopefully next week. 01 Amanda Boyles I need a medium. 🙂 Bill Boyles well shit if you're getting one them i'm going to C





### #EndInstitutionalAbuse

www.sia-now.org



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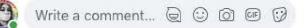


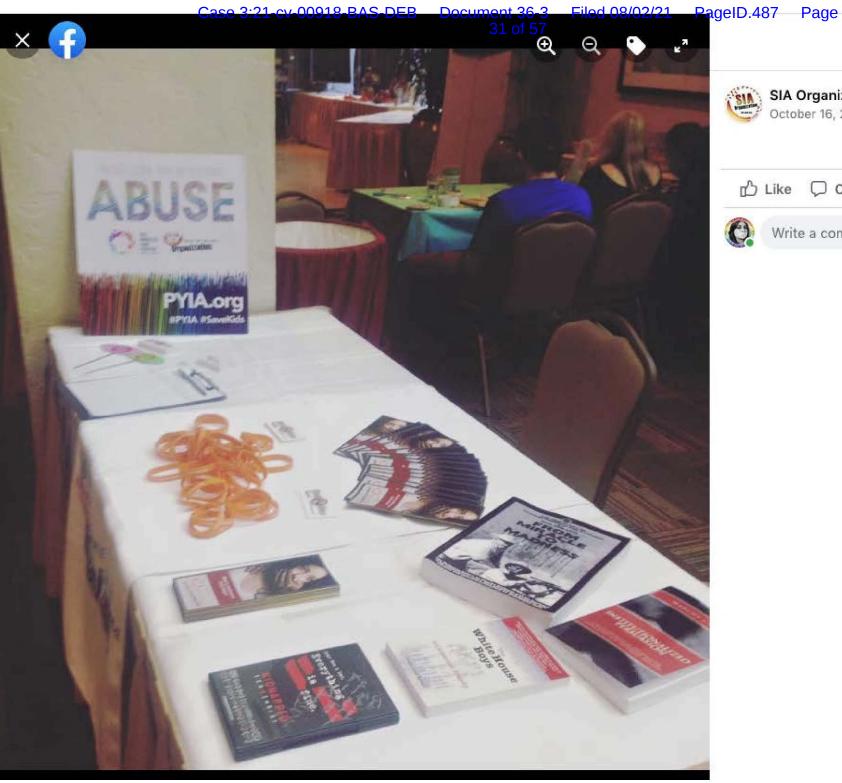








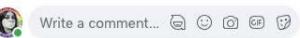


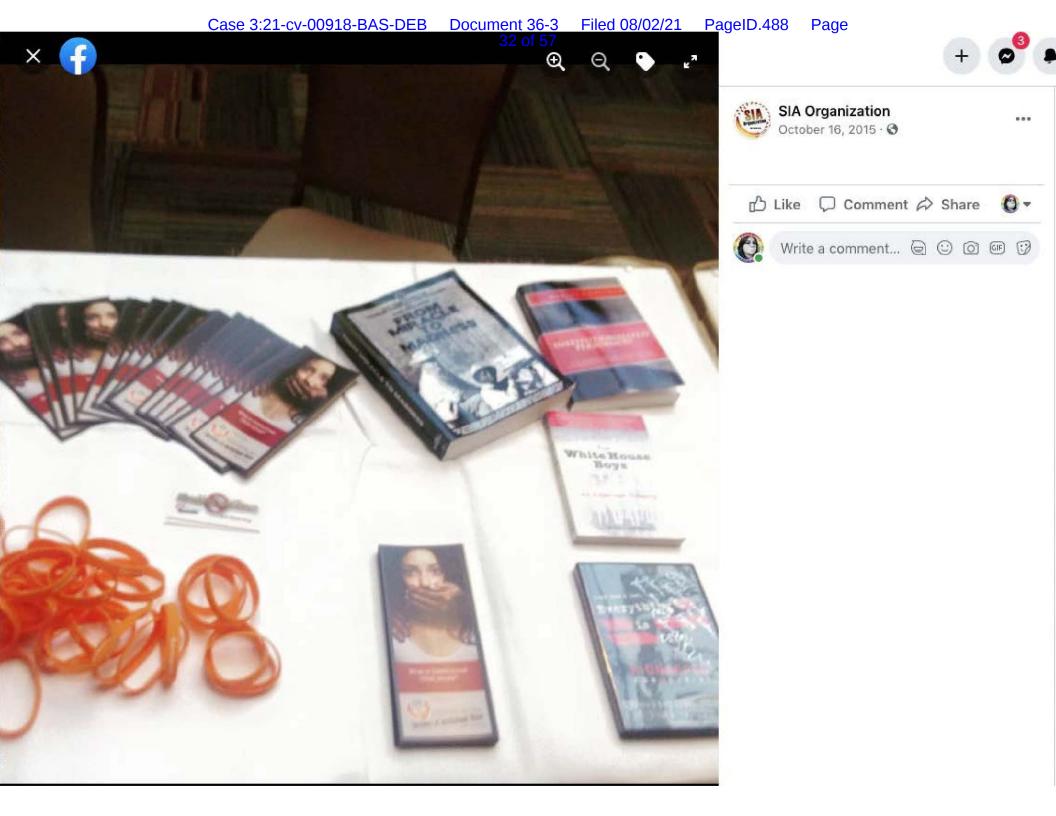
















At a press conference this morning, the Center announced legislation introduced by Senator Ricardo Lara to protect youth from institutional abuse.

In just one year, 1,619 employees of youth programs in 33 states were involved in incidents of abuse. Even worse, the SIA Organization reports more than 300 young people have died from abuse in these institutions or have killed themselves.

Please join us in signing the Center's petition to #SaveKids. http://bit.ly/HelpPYIA

Phot... See More

— at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza - Los Angeles LGBT Center.



8 Shares











Write a comment... 

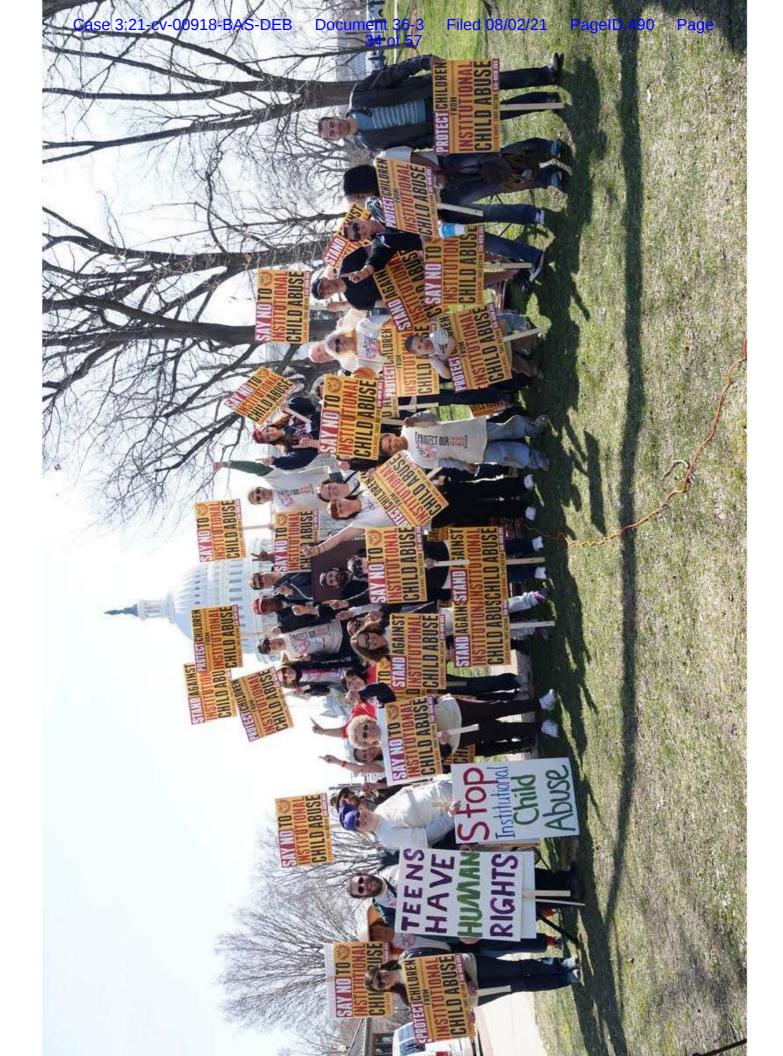
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### Paris Hilton leads rally against Provo Canyon School

By Jessica Miller | Oct. 9, 2020, 2:20 p.m. | Updated: Oct. 12, 2020, 9:48 a.m.



(Rick Egan | The Salt Lake Tribune) Paris Hilton speaks to survivors during a rally and march to continue her calls for the closure of Provo Canyon School, a residential treatment center in Utah she attended when she was a teen Friday, Oct. 9, 2020.













### Paris Hilton leads rally against Provo **Canyon School**

By Jessica Miller | Oct. 9, 2020, 2:20 p.m. | Updated: Oct. 12, 2020, 9:48 a.m.



(Rick Egan | The Salt Lake Tribune) Paris Hilton leads a march to the Provo Canyon School, during a rally calling for the closure of Provo Canyon School, a residential treatment center in Utah she attended when she was a teen, on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020.



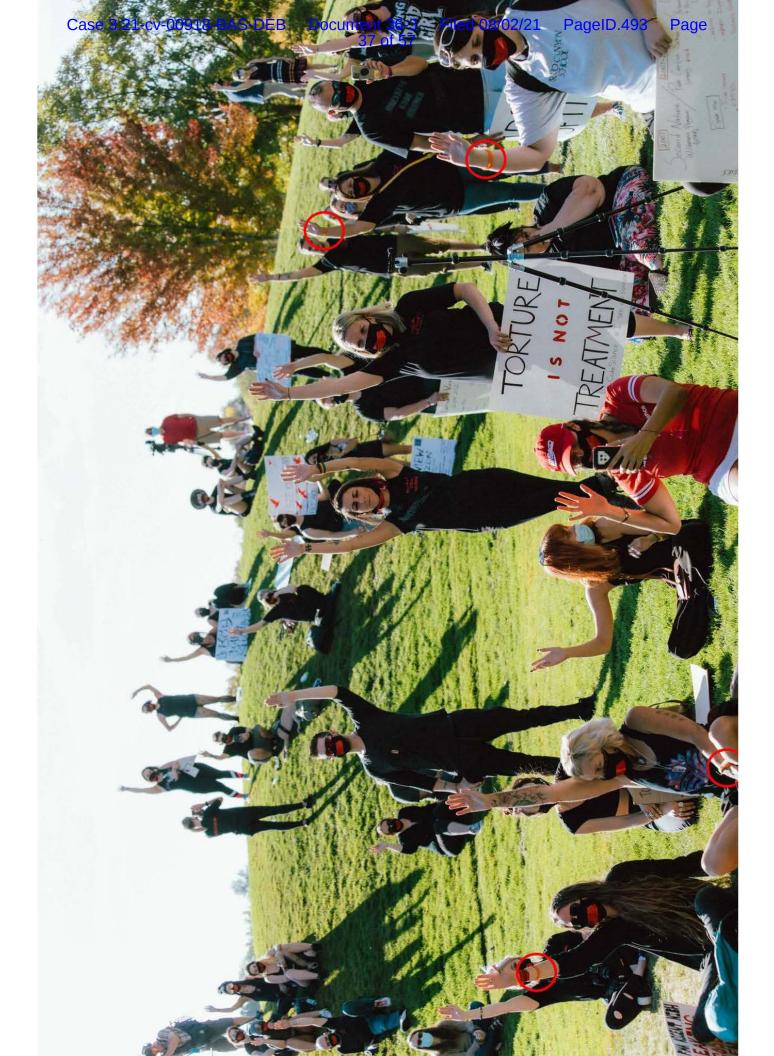


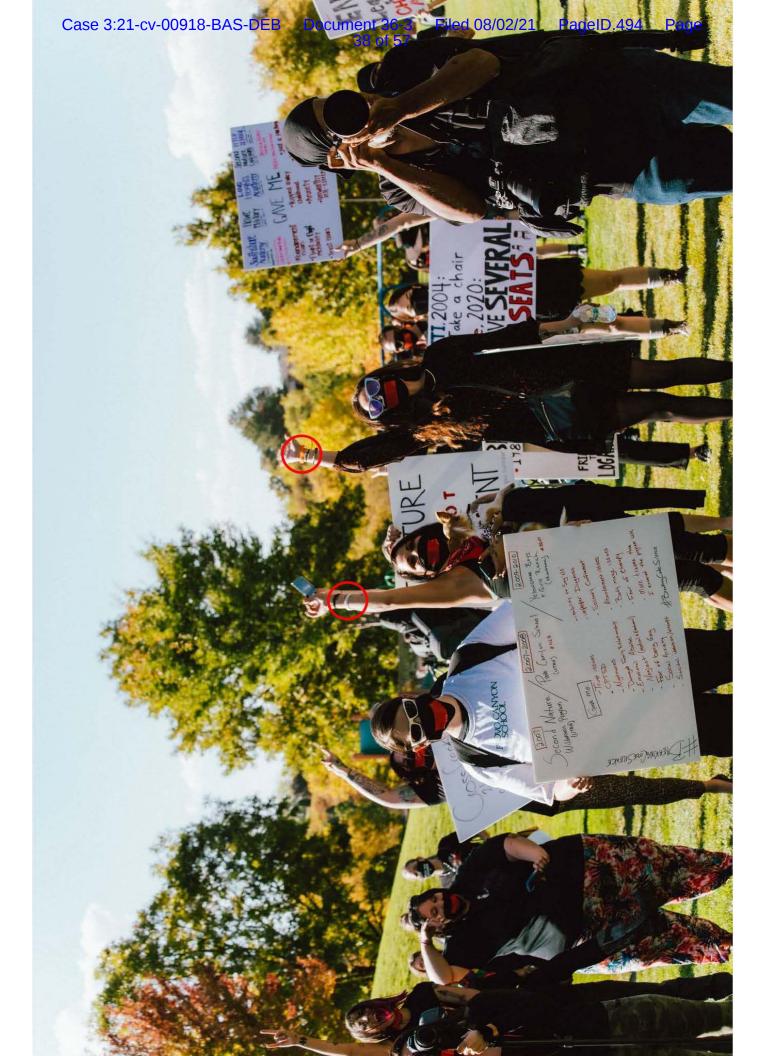














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### **EXHIBIT C**

Prices increase in 22 H : 59 M : 18 s

Up to 35% off sitewidel \$13 tees and more

SHOP NOW



Millions of designs for every interest







BROWSE

**ADULT APPAREL** 

KIDS APPAREL

MASKS

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🚺 English (US) - \$ USD



**About Breaking Code** Silence Official **BREAKING CODE** SILENCE is a movement organized to elevate survivor voices to prevent institutional child abuse.

### Filter by Product:

**Adult Apparel** 

T-Shirts.

Tank Tops

Hoodies

SILENCE

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be the hero YOU NEEDED 0 Sold Edit Copy Deactivate

Newest

Popular

### Case 3:21-cv-00918-BAS-DEB

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Filed 08/02/21

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Be the hero

YOU NEEDED

when you were

YOUNGER

Be the hero you needed when yo ...

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Crewneck Sweatshirts

Long Sleeve T-Shirts

Baseball T-Shirts

Kids Apparel

Kids T-Shirts

Kids Hoodie

Kids Long Sleeve T-Shirt

Onesie

Masks

Masks

Home Goods

Wall Art

Notebooks

Mugs

Pillows

Totes

**Tapestries** 

Pins

Cases & Stickers

Phone Cases

Laptop Cases

Stickers

Magnets

Breaking Code Silence T-Shirt \$80 \$13 23:13:59



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\$80 \$13 23:13:59

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Survivor Strong - #breakingcode... \$20 \$13 23:13:59

#breakingcodesilence

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BREAKING CODE ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

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DESERVES TO BE SAFE

Every Child Deserves to Be Safe ...



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WARRIOR

2 Sold

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Breaking Code Silence, T-Shirt \$80 \$13 23:13:58

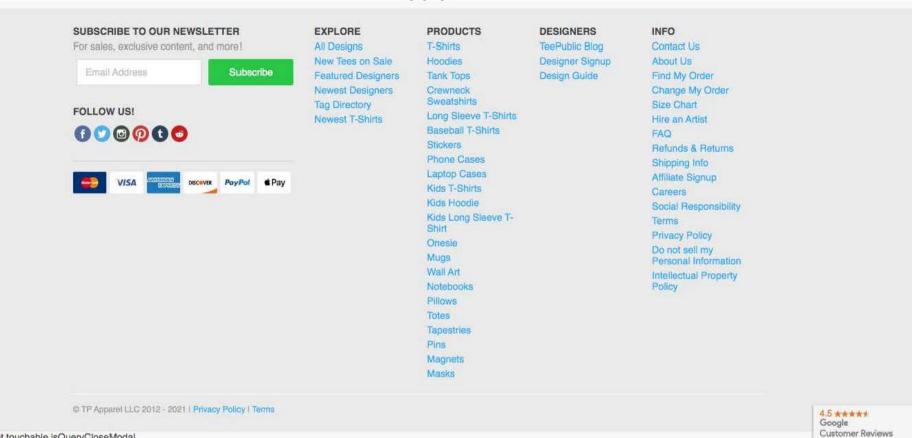


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### Case 3:21-cv-00918-BAS-DEB Document 36-3 Filed 08/02/21 PageID.499 Page 43 of 57



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### **EXHIBIT D**

### FISCAL SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

### Between

### **Breaking Code Silence**

### And the

### National Youth Rights Association

This Agreement is made by and between the National Youth Rights Association (NYRA) and Breaking Code Silence. NYRA is a Maryland nonprofit public benefit corporation, qualified as exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Breaking Code Silence is a California based organization. Margaret Zheng is the current president of NYRA. Breaking Code Silence is a project of NYRA and has some measure of independence (separate board of directors, separate bylaws).

### **RECITALS**

- A. NYRA agrees to serve as the fiscal agent for support of the Project known as Breaking Code Silence (the Project) and to make disbursements of grant funds and donations earmarked for the furtherance of the Projects mission. Margaret Zheng, president of NYRA, is ultimately charged with the authority to manage fiscal sponsor responsibilities.
- B. NYRA desires to act as the fiscal sponsor of the Project by receiving assets and incurring liabilities identified with the Project beginning on the effective date and using them to pursue the objectives for which the Project is being established. NYRAs board has determined that these objectives will further the charitable and educational goals of NYRA. Breaking Code Silence desires to manage itself under the sponsorship of NYRA.

#### NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Document 36-3

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- 1. <u>Term of Agreement</u>. This Agreement and all terms herein shall apply beginning to October 7, 2020. NYRA assumes the fiscal operation of the Project, which operation shall continue in effect unless and until terminated under Paragraph 5 below.
- 2. Project Activities and Sponsorship Policies. All community programs, public information work, fundraising events, processing and acknowledgment of cash and noncash revenue items, accounts payable and receivable, negotiation of leases and contracts, disbursements of Project funds (including grants), and other activities planned by the Project shall be the ultimate responsibility of NYRA and shall be conducted in the name of NYRA beginning on the effective date. Unless otherwise agreed, and subject to their consent, all personnel to be compensated for working on the Project shall become at-will employees of NYRA on the effective date and shall be subject to the same personnel policies and benefits as are required by law to apply to all employees of NYRA. Unless otherwise agreed, any tangible or intangible property, including copyrights, obtained or created in connection with the Project shall be the property of NYRA while this Agreement is in effect. Authority to manage the program activities of the Project is delegated to Breaking Code Silence, subject at all times to the ultimate direction and control of the NYRA board of directors. Breaking Code Silence shall abide by the Sponsorship Policies of NYRA set forth on the attached Exhibit 1, which may be amended from time to time with the consent of Breaking Code Silence and which include administrative fees to be paid from the restricted fund described in Paragraphs 3 and 4 below.
- 3. Restricted Fund. Beginning on the effective date, NYRA shall place all gifts, grants, contributions, and other revenues received by NYRA and identified with the Project into a restricted fund to be used for the sole benefit of the Projects mission as that mission may be defined by Breaking Code Silence from time to time with the approval of NYRA. NYRA retains the unilateral right to spend such funds as to accomplish the purposes of the Project as nearly as possible within NYRAs sole judgment, subject to any donor-imposed restrictions, as to purpose, on the charitable use of such assets. The parties agree that all revenue and the fair market value of all property, in the restricted fund be reported as income for NYRA, for both tax purposes and for purposes of NYRAs financial statements.
- 4. Restricted Fund Management / Performance of Charitable Purposes. All of the assets received by NYRA under the terms of this Agreement shall be devoted to the purposes of the Project as long as they remain within the tax-exempt purposes of NYRA. Any attempts by the Project to influence legislation within the meaning of IRC Section 501(c)(3) shall not exceed 10% of the Projects funds, staff time, and activities. NYRA shall not use any portion of the assets to participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, to induce or encourage violations of law or public policy, to cause any private inurement or improper private benefit to occur, nor to take any other action inconsistent with IRC Section 501(c) (3).

Page

- **Termination**. This Agreement shall terminate when the objectives of the Project can no longer reasonably be accomplished by NYRA. If the objectives of the Project can still be accomplished but either Breaking Code Silence or NYRA desires to terminate NYRAs fiscal sponsorship of the Project, the following understandings shall apply. Either NYRA or Breaking Code Silence may terminate this Agreement on 60 days written notice to the other party, so long as another nonprofit corporation which is taxexempt under IRS Section 501(c) (3), and is not classified as a private foundation under Section 509(a) (a Successor), is willing and able to sponsor the Project and is approved in writing by both parties by the end of the 60-day period. If the parties cannot agree on a Successor to sponsor the Project, Breaking Code Silence shall have an additional 60 days to find a Successor willing and able to sponsor the Project. If a Successor is found, the balance of assets in NYRAs restricted fund for the Project, together with any other assets held or liabilities incurred by NYRA in connection with the Project, shall be transferred to the Successor at the end of the notice period or any extension thereof, subject to the approval of any third parties that may be required. If Breaking Code Silence has formed a new organization qualified to be a Successor as set forth in this Paragraph, such organizations shall be eligible to receive all such assets and liabilities so long as such organization has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service indicating that such qualifications have been met no later than the end of the notice period or any extension thereof. If no Successor is found, NYRA may dispose of the Project assets and liabilities in any manner consistent with applicable tax and charitable trust laws. Either party to this Agreement may terminate this Agreement based upon a material breach of this Agreement by the other party by giving 30 days written notice to the other party.
- 6. <u>Miscellaneous</u>. In the event of any controversy, claim, or dispute between the parties arising out of or related to this Agreement, or the alleged breach thereof, the prevailing party shall, in addition to any other relief, be entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys fees and costs of sustaining its position. Each provision of this Agreement shall be separately enforceable, and the invalidity of one provision shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. This Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland.
- Arbitration. In the event of any dispute under this Agreement, the parties shall attempt to resolve the matter themselves in an amicable manner. Failing such resolution, any dispute under this Agreement shall be resolved by binding arbitration in Washington, DC in accordance with commercial arbitration rules of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS) then in effect, or any other rules mutually agreed to by the parties. Any award or order made in any such arbitration may be entered as a judgment in a court of competent jurisdiction. Any dispute, and the resolution thereof in any manner, shall be and remain confidential information, and all parties shall protect the confidential information from public disclosure using any and all reasonable legal and technical means.

PageID.504

**Entire Agreement**. This Agreement constitutes the only agreement and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, among the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. All Exhibits hereto are a material part of this Agreement and are incorporated by reference. This Agreement, including any Exhibits hereto, may not be amended or modified except in writing signed by all parties to this Agreement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement effective on October 7, 2020.

Jennifer Walker

Breaking Code Silence

Margaret Zheng

Ву: Му

National Youth Rights Association

Date: 7 Oct. 2020

#### **EXHIBIT 1**

NYRA will retain the interest accrued on all restricted funds for which it serves as a fiscal sponsor as a partial offset of administrative expenses. NYRA also charges an administrative fee for its fiscal sponsorship services. That fee is a percentage of the total dollar amount NYRA handles on behalf of those projects it sponsors. The percentage varies from 0 to 15 percent depending on the nature of the project and its concordance with the mission of NYRA. The administrative fee charged to Breaking Code Silence is 10 percent.

As part of its fiscal sponsorship services, NYRA will keep detailed financial records, create account statements on a regular basis, process checks for expenses and payroll, deal with tax reporting obligations, administer benefits, and provide other administrative support as needed. As fiscal sponsor, NYRA is ultimately responsible for all Project activities, including fundraising. In practice, the NYRA board and executive team will delegate certain duties to other NYRA staff members and to Breaking Code Silence. NYRA will handle financial records and payroll. Breaking Code Silence will handle direct employee relations, including hiring, firing, and performance reviews, and coordinate fundraising activities. All fundraising activities shall be conducted in the name of NYRA and are subject to the approval of Margaret Zheng, president of NYRA.

Breaking Code Silence understands that NYRA will not authorize any expenditure from the Projects restricted fund if such expenditures would cause the balance in the Projects restricted fund to fall below zero. Exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the NYRA president if and only if the Breaking Code Silence board of directors accepts full responsibility for repayment of any deficit spending in the event that fundraising for the Project is unsuccessful. In any case, Cash-flow loans made by NYRA to the Projects restricted fund shall not exceed \$1,000.

# **EXHIBIT E**

#### I - Organizational Background

Breaking Code Silence (BCS) is a nonprofit organization and movement organized by a network of hundreds of survivors including Paris Hilton to raise awareness of the problems in the Troubled Teen Industry (TTI) and the need for change in how society responds to children and youth from vulnerable backgrounds and circumstances. In addition to raising awareness, BCS investigates facilities, reports abuse when discovered, develops research to understand the effect of abuse on child abuse survivors, and actively pursues policy change.

Document 36-3

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To date, 19 million people have viewed Paris Hilton's documentary This is Paris which has significantly increased public awareness of the abuse endured in residential treatment facilities. Since it debuted, Paris has dedicated her platform and resources to ensuring no more children suffer at the hands of systemically abusive institutions. Alongside BCS, she was accepted to RISE Justice Labs, the world's first civil rights accelerator. In 2021, federal legislation aimed to protect youth in congregate care settings will be introduced. Her efforts as a result of the documentary, such as the peaceful gathering she organized in Provo, Utah that hundreds of survivors from around the country attended, and her change.org petition that resulted in 185,000 signatures have been covered in the USA Today, Good Morning America, Salt Lake Tribune, Fox News, and hundreds of other outlets.

Paris and the BCS Team also recognize the grave need for mental health assistance for this community. This proposed pilot project will be led by Breaking Code Silence with key support from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and the Trauma Resiliency Institute. The project will be led by a team of mental health professionals, academics, and community leaders all of whom are survivors of institutional child abuse within the TTI. This team has collectively more than 8 decades of professional experience providing services to survivors of trauma.

## III - Targeted Need

The "Troubled Teen Industry" includes an expansive network of residential programs and facilities which claim to treat, reform, or rehabilitate youth who need additional care due to family circumstances, traumatic experiences, disabilities, social problems, medical conditions, or learning differences. States, school districts, county social service providers, tribal authorities, struggling parents, and the federal government rely on these private for-profit institutions to provide residential care for these youth.

More than 120,000 children are placed in institutional care each year. Nearly all belong to one or more vulnerable groups: people with mental or physical difficulties, children involved in juvenile justice, special education, and/or child welfare systems, lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgender (LGBTQ) identified, or members of a Native American tribe. An additional vulnerability includes those of cultural or racial ethnic background (for example, a third of the children sent to out of state TTI facilitates by the State of California in 2019 were Black or Latino though this population comprises only 6% of California's special education students).

Separated from the protective oversight of their families, institutionalized youth are particularly vulnerable to neglect, maltreatment, and/or violence. The Government Accountability Office investigations identified systemic issues within these programs that played a significant role in the deaths of youth, including:

- ❖ Basic human rights violations and inhumane, degrading discipline
- Inappropriate restraints (physical, mechanical, and chemical) and social isolation rooms

- ❖ Forcing sedatives or psychiatric medication without psychiatric evaluation
- ❖ Denial of proper nutrients, outdoor recreation, and critical medical care
- Substandard or restricted education
- Conversion and aversion therapy
- Severe restrictions of communication and access to parents, lawyers, and advocates

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- \* Restricted peer to peer relationships
- Sexual assault, harassment, grooming by staff and peers
- ❖ Financial opportunism and deceptive marketing

Minimal and poor regulation, lack of consistent policies, inconsistent oversight, and an overreliance on profit-driven mental health companies have all contributed to an environment where youth are systematically abused in the very institutions that purport to care for them.

Adult survivors of institutional child abuse have remarkably poor outcomes. These negative impacts are numerous, interconnected, and pervasive. They may be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, addiction, and other mental health problems. Survivors are more likely to both commit crimes and be crime victims as adults. Death by suicide, murder, and overdose for this population are well above the national norms. As adults, survivors are more likely to have physical health problems due to the complex trauma endured. The educational and economic trajectories of survivors are also impacted. In addition, familial support is often not available for survivors.

## **Peer Education and Support**

As a result of traumatic experiences in the context of a mental health program, TTI alumni are often reluctant to seek psychosocial assistance from traditional mental health programs as they are perceived as untrustworthy or threatening. Therefore, implementing survivor-led opportunities circumvents the need to establish clinical rapport. During the first year of this pilot project, 50 survivors will be recruited and vetted through a comprehensive assessment and interview process to be trained as peer educators using the Community Resilience Model (CRM). CRM is an established peer education training model widely used by community leaders and paraprofessionals to assist community members in coping with trauma and crisis. Peer educators will provide education and psychosocial support to cope with past trauma and current crises to a minimum of 500-1,000 survivors each year. Utilizing an evidence-based social support model (eg. Alcoholics Anonymous), daily virtual 75-minute sessions will be available to those of all ages within the international survivor community. Through a secure online tool, data will be collected and additional information including an emergency contact number and their location will be required when signing up.

The purpose of this pilot program is to train and empower survivor leaders to teach survivors self-applied interventions to decrease trauma symptoms and increase functioning as they navigate their career, relationships, and more. Peer educators will:

- Educate survivors about trauma and identify its neurophysiological impact on the mind and body
- Teach concrete tools and skills to re-regulate the nervous system in response to emotional cues
- Provide opportunities for social support and relational engagement between participants

An additional 15 survivors will be trained as peer support specialists using a curriculum specifically designed to focus on the needs of institutional child abuse survivors. Peer support specialists have been incorporated into the mental health recovery systems of care since the 1970s and have a strong evidence base for effective treatment delivery with hard-to-reach populations, including former foster youth, veterans, refugees, sexual assault and trafficking survivors, and people experiencing homelessness. Each specialist will serve an estimated 80 individuals annually over two years, assisting peers with navigating

the adult mental health system, accessing needed services from local agencies, obtaining documents and records, securing housing and employment, transportation back to their home state after aging out of institutional care, transition to adulthood planning, life skills coaching, and access to emergency assistance.

53 of 57

Document 36-3

Peer support specialists and peer educators will serve as volunteers, for a minimum of 8 hours per month, for two years. They will receive biweekly supervision from a trained and licensed mental health practitioner. Additionally, a licensed social worker and social work staff will be on hand to support and encourage the specialists and educators and to provide direct assistance with complex cases and situations.

#### **Education of Mental Health Professionals**

A series of introductory, beginning, intermediate, and advanced training courses will be created to educate mental health and substance abuse professionals, medical providers, and child/youth/community service providers on the needs, experiences, and common challenges reported by the TTI survivor population. This type of training does not currently exist. Despite standard curricula mentioning that institutionalized abuse populations exist, public health, counseling, nursing, recreational therapy, occupational therapy, and psychology students receive no instruction regarding this population. Students who complete an MSW in clinical social work practice receive less than 15 minutes of instruction during their two-year program on the problem of abuse in institutional care and no instruction on how to respond to the trauma this causes.

Participants will be guided in empowering methods for engaging with this population in a way that promotes dignity and self-determination of survivors. Topics will include ethical concerns, trauma-informed care, the physical and psychological sequela of torture/institutional abuse common among TTI survivors, treatment protocols, and strategies for empowering psychological interventions with survivors. Key concepts will be introduced in discipline specific language which builds connections to established research and existing professional knowledge. Opportunities for continuing education units and certification of the training will be provided to encourage participation from a wide variety of professionals. We plan to engage professionals through word of mouth, presentations and panels at psychotherapy conferences, and through publications.

Professionals who complete a set number of training hours will be invited to apply to be "endorsed" by the project. This process will include a panel interview, background check, agreement to adhere to ethical standards, and ongoing contact to assure that those vetted are committed to providing high quality support services to survivors. A referral list of endorsed professionals will be provided online and used by our peer support specialists and peer educators when referring survivors for specialized or intensive care.

#### **Trauma Intervention Retreat**

Lastly, a program incorporating cutting edge trauma interventions will be organized for 40 survivors to take place in person over a six-day retreat when COVID restrictions are lifted. As a pilot retreat, the program will incorporate neurophysiologically-based practices demonstrated through research to reduce trauma symptoms and improve daily and social functioning and increase life-satisfaction including psychosensory therapy and neural therapy. CRM Peer Educators will facilitate and assist education groups, therapeutic recreational opportunities (e.g., equine facilitated therapy, mediation, yoga, etc.), and other psychosocial components to promote healing, relational connection, and personal empowerment. Retreat participants will be intentionally recruited so that they reflect the diversity of those who experience institutional abuse including foster care alumni, individuals who are impacted by the juvenile

PageID.510

justice and special education systems, people who identify as LGBTQ, and those who were placed in institutional care through Native American tribal authorities.

Document 36-3

54 of 57

#### Research

The project as a whole will be evaluated during and after the realization of project outputs to assure that the aim of the project was met, and that key metrics were achieved. Data collection for CRM participants will assess an increase or decrease in functioning, mental health symptoms (PTSD, mood, anxiety, depression), utilization of public resources, contribution to society, utilization of medical care, interactions with police or social services, utilization of food stamps, and more.

During the program assessment period, we will also identify the reliability of the retreat model to see if it drastically reduced symptoms and increased functioning. This evaluation process will serve to build on and expand our professional understanding of trauma interventions with this particular community, contributing to the growing body of published works on evidence-based interventions for trauma survivors.

#### Conclusion

With support from The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Paris Hilton and Breaking Code Silence can (1) implement a data-driven pilot program which will provide direct services including peer-led psychosocial support, case management, trauma education, and trauma resolution techniques to establish an evidenced-based recovery model for survivors of institutional child abuse, and (2) increase access to high quality professional psychological support by trained therapists. With approximately 120,000 youth currently in congregate care settings and thousands of survivors facing insurmountable amounts of challenges including a disproportionately high number of overdoses and suicides due to the current lack of care, providing services to impact this vulnerable community is of vital importance and will enhance this movement substantially.

#### **Annex A - Timeline over Three Years**

First 6 months	Following 2 years	Final 6 months
----------------	-------------------	----------------

Page

Program Development, Screening & Training of CRM Peer Specialists	CRM Daily sessions & Retreat	Data Review & Research Evaluation
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Annex B - Proposed Budget over Three Years

Cost	Project Component	Cost	
Key Personnel Salaries and Fringe (2 part time co-directors)	Peer education and support - 70%; Education - 8%; Administration - 2%; Retreat - 20%	\$64,406	
Assistant #1 - Salary and Fringe	Peer education and support (50%); Education of mental health professionals (50%)	\$47,914	
Assistant #2 - Salary and Fringe	Trauma intervention retreat	\$14,700	
Assistant #3 - Salary and Fringe	Peer education and support (60%); Trauma intervention retreat (30%); Project coordination (10%)	\$14,700	
Consultants and short-term professional staff	Peer education and support	\$43,400	
Consultants and short-term professional staff	Education of mental health professionals	\$18,000	
Survivor emergency fund	Peer education and support	\$20,000	
Retreat programming costs	Trauma intervention retreat	\$128,700	
Retreat participant travel	Trauma intervention retreat	\$32,400	
CRM training and certification	Peer education and support	\$74,836	
Supplies and incidentals	Peer education and support	\$3,000	
Indirects		\$37,821	
	TOTAL:	\$499,877	

<sup>\*</sup>The UNCW College of Health and Human Services will physically house and fund the research element of this project and provide institutional guidance and consultation. IRB approval has already been received and access to statisticians and research and graduate assistants to compile editors for publications is available.

#### **Annex C - Biographies of Project Leaders**

**Project Co-Directors** 

#### Athena Kolbe, PhD, LCSW - Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina Wilmington

Raised in California, Kolbe spent years in the Los Angeles foster care system before being sent to a TTI facility in Utah at the age of 15. After aging out of foster care she spent several years living on the streets before attending community college and eventually earning her bachelor's degree in from Skidmore College (New York). Kolbe worked in public radio and lived for several years in Haiti, where she helped establish a children's radio station. After a decade in journalism, Kolbe returned to graduate school, earning degrees in Theology, Social Work, and Political Science.

Document 36-3

56 of 57

She is a seasoned clinical therapist with extensive training in the treatment of complex trauma with adolescents and adults from vulnerable populations including foster care alumni, youth and adults involved in the mental health and criminal justice systems, LGBTQ youth, and people experiencing homelessness. In 2008, Kolbe returned to graduate school at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, where she earned PhDs in Social Work and Political Science. In addition to teaching and mentoring new clinical therapists in the social work program, she conducts research in the US and abroad focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder, the mental health impacts of natural and man-made disasters, and the needs and experiences of transition aged youth.

**Vanessa Hughes** PhDc, MA, MFT, MAICS, MAT, SEP is a survivor of a WWASP program. After serving as a firefighter in the United States Marine Corps, she went on to obtain Graduate degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy, Clinical Psychology, Theology, and Intercultural Studies. She will obtain her doctorate in clinical psychology in July.

Vanessa is a trauma expert with extensive experience working with individuals with severe PTSD. She provides training for fellow therapists who work with trauma and teaches in a graduate therapy program as an adjunct professor.

Vanessa developed a body-based treatment approach for Military Sexual Trauma which has been researched and implemented in several treatment programs and is published in a textbook for treating Military Sexual Trauma. She has been invited to help create various wellness and treatment programs, research studies, and wellness retreats for traumatized individuals. She serves as the Executive Director of Organizational Development at Vetitation, a fully funded wellness retreat program for Veterans with PTSD. In 2015, she was recognized as Woman of the Year by Senator Carol Liu for her trauma-informed work in the community.

#### **Leadership Team Members**

**Jen Robison** is a children's rights advocate, raised in the Los Angeles area and now residing in Southern Oregon. As a survivor of institutional child abuse during her time at Provo Canyon School (Utah) from 2003-2005, she has been a clear and outspoken voice for the rights and safety of children held in residential treatment programs since 2008.

Jen has been a guiding force in the development of the #BreakingCodeSilence movement, helping to brand its identity, create calls to action, and create the platform for survivors to make their stories public in order to spread awareness of the abuses within the "troubled teen" industry. In 2020 she was elected by her team members to serve as the Director/CEO of Breaking Code Silence, where she oversees the activist network and current projects relating to public awareness, education, research, survivor support, active program investigation, and legislative reform of the industry.

PageID.513

#### **Notes for Hilton Foundation (not a part of application)**

- Paris's Change.org petition (185k signatures)
- 60 Million views of #breakingcodesilence across media channels
- Disability Law Center Utah announces they are investigating all facilities in Utah
- Tens of parents have pulled youth out of abusive programs since September
- Hundreds of survivors gathered with Paris in Provo, Utah for a silent march in October 2020

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- The Salt Lake Tribune's fundraiser to release state reports of abuse and neglect at residential treatment facilities in Utah hit its goal in 12 hours with Paris support
- All proceeds of Paris single "I Blame You" donated to Breaking Code Silence
- Official partnership with American Bar Association (ABA) to host monthly panels on the industry and activate lawyers on behalf of the movement
- Paris Hilton publishes https://www.survivorsbreakingsilence.com/ to amplify survivor voices
- California decertified all out of state residential care placements for child welfare and juvenile justice youth and Missouri proposes legislation to regulate unlicensed reform
- Tons of coverage on the industry: New York Post, ABC, Vanity Fair, USA Today and more.

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Filed 08/02/21

PageID.514

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Case 3:21-cv-00918-BAS-DEB

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- I, JOSH SCARPUZZI, hereby declares the following:
- I have personal knowledge of the matters I have declared herein, and If called to testify I would do so in the same manner.
- 2. I am a survivor of abuse by teen programs and boarding schools, and as a survivor I have a long history of involvement with the survivor community. I do writing, blogging, social media posting, and speaking engagements having to do with the survivor community, but I did it all as TTI, and never as BREAKING CODE SILENCE, prior to December 22, 2018.
- The material attached herein is a true an correct copy of a post that I personally drafted and uploaded to Facebook on July 8, 2021, and the statements made in that post are true, correct, and accurate.

I declare this is true and correct under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

#### **CONTRERAS LAW FIRM**

Joshu 3 (Jul 27, 2021 21:06 EDT) Date: July 27, 2021 By:

Josh Scarapuzzi, Declarant

om/groups/653206225177431

# EXHIBIT A







Invite





#### TTI Advocates



Statement of Fact July 08, 2021

Hello BCS Community, Lawyers, and Leadership,

W

In 2007-2008 while at Spring Creek I wrote a collection of poetry that was titled "The thoughts of a caged bird." This collection was never intended to be a part of my book and was written independently.

On October 12th, 2010 I spoke at a Mathew Sheapherd Memorial event in San Diego California. At this event I spoke about my struggle with suicide, and my time at Spring Creek. At this point in time I had began writing my book with no title, it was meant to be a journal at first.

From 2010-2018 I had worked at a number of small events that talked about troubled teen issues and suicide awareness but always acted on behalf of myself and was not promoting, engaging, or in any way mentioning the BCS mark. I continued working on my book independently.

Around 2017 I settled on the title Breaking Code Silence for my book and began emailing editors and publishers. Book titles are not able to be trademarked and as such I never trademarked my book, only a general copyright that applies to any intellectual written property.

When I was first approached by Vanessa Hughes with the new BCS organization, I was told by them that they believed I had the exclusive rights to the BCS mark and they wanted to secure that from me. They implied that what their trademark lawyer told them was that any work I did around the TTI(speaking about suicide, my poetry, my book) was entirely connected and legally constituted first use rights under trademark law. I have now learned that this is false. I had questioned

and what they post.

- Visible
   Anyone can find this group.
- General

#### Rooms



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Document 36-4 File

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PageID.517

Page 4

Invite

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EXHIBIT Af 4















### TTI Advocates

organization, I was told by them that they believed I had the exclusive rights to the BCS mark and they wanted to secure that from me. They implied that what their trademark lawyer told them was that any work I did around the TTI(speaking about suicide, my poetry, my book) was entirely connected and legally constituted first use rights under trademark law. I have now learned that this is false. I had questioned this at the time and was reassured by both Vanessa and Katie on multiple occasions that my concerns over the validity and legality of this were already cleared by the lawyers. Despite my concern they continued to ensure me that anything I did in the past regarding TTI counted as part of my "BCS advocacy."

For the last few months I have been defending myself as the sole owner and founder of BCS because that's what I was told and ensured by those in power at BCS was legally my right. It was never my intention to lie or deceive anyone in the process, I was operating under the information hat was given to me with the intention that I was helping kids.

At this time I am taking a step back from TTI advocacy as I never asked to brought into the middle of this division and used as a pawn. Please respect my privacy and stop reaching out. To those who are calling and harassing me, sending me harassing messages online and via text, I'm asking you survivor to survivor, please stop.

Joshua Scarpuzzi



Like

Comment

All Comments ▼



Just to clarify come confusion regarding timeling and

Visible

Anyone can find this group.

General

#### Rooms



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Filed 08/02/21

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Defendant, MARTHA THOMPSON, by her undersigned attorney, moves and requests that the court take judicial notice, pursuant to Fed. Rules of Evidence, Rule 201, of the following public records:

**EXHIBIT A:** United States Patent and Trade Office's TESS registry entries BREAKINGCODESILENCE and **BREAKING** CODE SILENCE for September 3, 2020, September 24, 2020, May 5, 2021, and May 6, 2021. A true and correct copy of the TESS registry entries are attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated fully herein to this request by this reference.

EXHIBIT B: Articles of Incorporation and Statement of Information filed and maintained by the California Secretary of State Business Portal for BREAKING CODE SILENCE, filed on March 22, 2021 and May 1, 2021 respectively. A true and correct copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Statement of Information is attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated fully into this request by this reference.

**EXHIBIT C:** Facebook post of JOSHUA SCARPUZZI, July 8, 2021. A true and correct copy of the post is attached hereto as Exhibit C and incorporated fully into this request by this reference.

Exhibits A and B are public records, and are therefore the proper subject for judicial notice. Fed. R. Evid. 201(b)(2); Mackey v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., 831 Fed.Appx. 349, 351 (9th Cir. 2020).

#### **CONTRERAS LAW FIRM**

/s/ANDREW R. STILWELL Date: August 2, 2021 By:

> Andrew Stilwell, Esq. Attorneys for MARTHA THOMPSON

# **EXHIBIT A**

United States Patent and Trademark Office

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## **Trademarks > Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)**

TESS was last updated on Mon Jun 7 03:32:23 EDT 2021

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## BREAKING CODE SILENCE

#### Word Mark BREAKING CODE SILENCE

**Goods and** IC 035. US 100 101 102. G & S: Providing services aimed at aimed at preventing institutional child abuse and empowering adult survivors to engage in positive self-advocacy; services to promote the interests of troubled teens by means of public advocacy. FIRST USE: 20191211. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20191211

Standard Characters Claimed

Mark

**Drawing** (4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Code

Serial 90692440 Number

Filing Date May 5, 2021

Current 1A

Document 36-5 Filed 08/02/21 Case 3:21-cv-00918-BAS-DEB PageID.522 Page 5 of 19

Original 1A

**Filing Basis** 

(APPLICANT) Breaking Code Silence, Inc. CORPORATION CALIFORNIA 272 N. Owner

Mar Vista Avenue Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91006

**Attorney** of Record

Lisel M. Ferguson

Type of Mark

**SERVICE MARK** 

Register

**PRINCIPAL** 

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Indicator

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## BREAKING CODE SILENCE

#### Word Mark BREAKING CODE SILENCE

Goods and IC 041. US 100 101 107. G & S: On-line articles, stories, blogs and speaking engagements aimed at preventing institutional child abuse and empowering adult survivors to engage in positive self-advocacy. FIRST USE: 20101018. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20101018

Standard Characters Claimed

Mark

**Drawing** (4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Code

Serial 90693777

Filing Date May 6, 2021

Current 1A

Document 36-5 Filed 08/02/21 Case 3:21-cv-00918-BAS-DEB PageID.524 Page 7 of 19

Original 1A

**Filing Basis** 

(APPLICANT) Breaking Code Silence, Inc. CORPORATION CALIFORNIA 272 N. Owner

Mar Vista Avenue Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91006

**Attorney** of Record

Lisel M. Ferguson

Type of Mark

**SERVICE MARK** 

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# BreakingCodeSilence

#### Word Mark BREAKINGCODESILENCE

**Goods and** IC 041. US 100 101 107. G & S: Activism and advocacy group of troubled teen program survivors - We are going to be providing education on boarding schools and teen programs. FIRST USE: 20130312. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20190101

Standard Characters Claimed

Mark

**Drawing** (4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Code

Serial 90157154 Number

Filing Date September 3, 2020

Current Basis

Original 1B

Filing Basis

Owner (APPLICANT) Robison, Jen INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave

Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) McNamara, Katherine INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Bulis, Jenna INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Papciak, Chelsea INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Moorman, Rebecca INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Carter, Emily INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

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**SERVICE MARK** 

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## **Trademarks > Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)**

TESS was last updated on Mon Jun 7 03:32:23 EDT 2021

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TSDR ASSIGN Status	TTAB Status ( Use the "Back	k" button of the Internet Browser

# Breaking Code Silence

Word Mark BREAKING CODE SILENCE

**Goods and** IC 035. US 100 101 102. G & S: Promoting the interests of troubled teens by **Services** means of public advocacy. FIRST USE: 20130401. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE:

20190601

Standard Characters Claimed

**Mark Drawing** 

(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Code Serial

90208204

Number Filing Date

September 24, 2020

Current Basis 1A;1B

Original

1A;1B

Filing Basis

Owner (APPLICANT) McNamara, Katherine R INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar

Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 191106

(APPLICANT) Robison, Jennifer INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Bulis, Jenna INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Carter, Emily INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Moorman, Rebecca INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

(APPLICANT) Papciak, Chelsea INDIVIDUAL UNITED STATES 272 N Mar Vista Ave Pasadena CALIFORNIA 91106

Type of Mark SERVICE MARK

Register PRINCIPAL

Live/Dead Indicator

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# **EXHIBIT B**

#### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

**OF** 

Breaking Code Silence



I.

The name of the corporation shall be Breaking Code Silence

II.

The place in this state where the principal office of the Corporation is to be located is 272 N Mar Vista Ave, Pasadena, California 91106.

III.

Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

This corporation is a nonprofit PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public and charitable purposes.

The specific purpose of this corporation is to educate, advocate and support research endeavors for youth and survivors of residential facilities

IV.

The name and address in the State of California of this corporation's initial agent for service of process is:

LegalZoom.com, Inc.

V.

14 of 19

Document 36-5

4721336

PageID.531

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation except from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

VI.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

VI.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the undersigned incorporator has executed these Articles of Incorporation on the date below.

Date: 03/22/2021

LegalZoom.com, Inc., Incorporator

By: Chevenne Moseley, Assistant Secretary





## Corporation - Statement of Information

Entity Name: BREAKING CODE SILENCE

Entity (File) Number: C4721336

File Date: 05/01/2021
Entity Type: Corporation
Jurisdiction: CALIFORNIA

Document ID: GS96633

#### **Detailed Filing Information**

1. Entity Name: BREAKING CODE SILENCE

2. Business Addresses:

a. Street Address of Principal

Office in California: 272 N Mar Vista Ave

Pasadena, California 91106 United States of America

b. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 91896

Pasadena, California 91109 United States of America

3. Officers:

a. Chief Executive Officer: Vanessa Hughes

P.O. Box 91896

Pasadena, California 91109 United States of America

b. Secretary: Jenny Magill

P.O. Box 91896

Pasadena, California 91109 United States of America

# California Secretary of State Electronic Filing

Officers (	Cont'd'	).
------------	---------	----

C.	Chief Financial Officer:	Katherine	McNamara

P.O. Box 91896

Pasadena, California 91109 United States of America

4. Agent for Service of Process: Katherine McNamara

272 N Mar Vista Ave

Pasadena, California 91106 United States of America

By signing this document, I certify that the information is true and correct and that I am authorized by California law to sign.

Electronic Signature: Katherine McNamara

Use bizfile.sos.ca.gov for online filings, searches, business records, and resources.

# **EXHIBIT C**

om/groups/653206225177431

# EXHIBIT A







Invite





#### TTI Advocates



W



Statement of Fact July 08, 2021

Hello BCS Community, Lawyers, and Leadership,

In 2007-2008 while at Spring Creek I wrote a collection of poetry that was titled "The thoughts of a caged bird." This collection was never intended to be a part of my book and was written independently.

On October 12th, 2010 I spoke at a Mathew Sheapherd Memorial event in San Diego California. At this event I spoke about my struggle with suicide, and my time at Spring Creek. At this point in time I had began writing my book with no title, it was meant to be a journal at first.

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and what they post.

- Visible
   Anyone can find this group.
- General

#### Rooms



## Get the Group Together on Video Chat

Create a room to instantly connect to other members on video chat.

Create Room

#### Recent media









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Filed 08/02/21

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EXHIBIT A 19











Invite





#### TTI Advocates

organization, I was told by them that they believed I had the exclusive rights to the BCS mark and they wanted to secure that from me. They implied that what their trademark lawyer told them was that any work I did around the TTI(speaking about suicide, my poetry, my book) was entirely connected and legally constituted first use rights under trademark law. I have now learned that this is false. I had guestioned this at the time and was reassured by both Vanessa and Katie on multiple occasions that my concerns over the validity and legality of this were already cleared by the lawyers. Despite my concern they continued to ensure me that anything I did in the past regarding TTI counted as part of my "BCS advocacy."

For the last few months I have been defending myself as the sole owner and founder of BCS because that's what I was told and ensured by those in power at BCS was legally my right. It was never my intention to lie or deceive anyone in the process, I was operating under the information hat was given to me with the intention that I was helping kids.

At this time I am taking a step back from TTI advocacy as I never asked to brought into the middle of this division and used as a pawn. Please respect my privacy and stop reaching out. To those who are calling and harassing me, sending me harassing messages online and via text, I'm asking you survivor to survivor, please stop.

Joshua Scarpuzzi



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